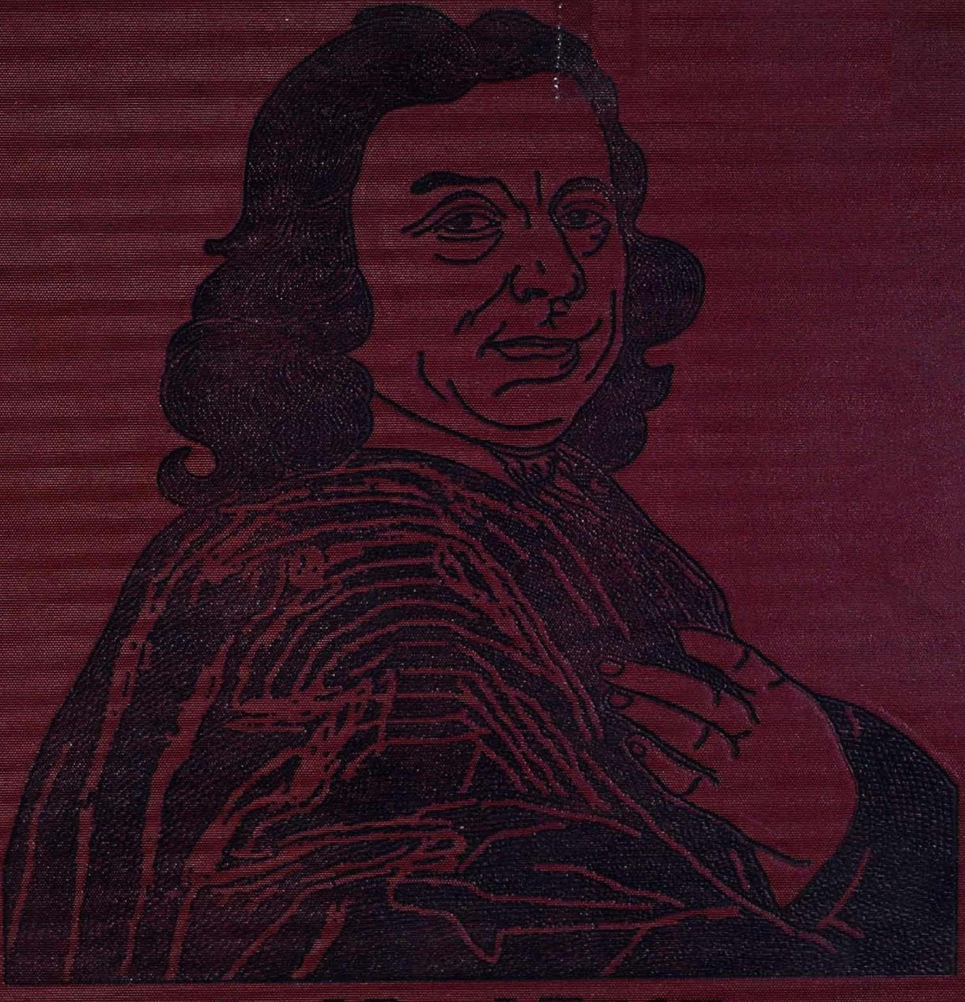
AN HISTORICAL RELATION OF THE ISLAND OF CEYLON IN THE EAST INDIES

ROBERT KNOX



CAPT. ROBT. KNOX

Painted from the Life & Engraved by R. White [illegible]

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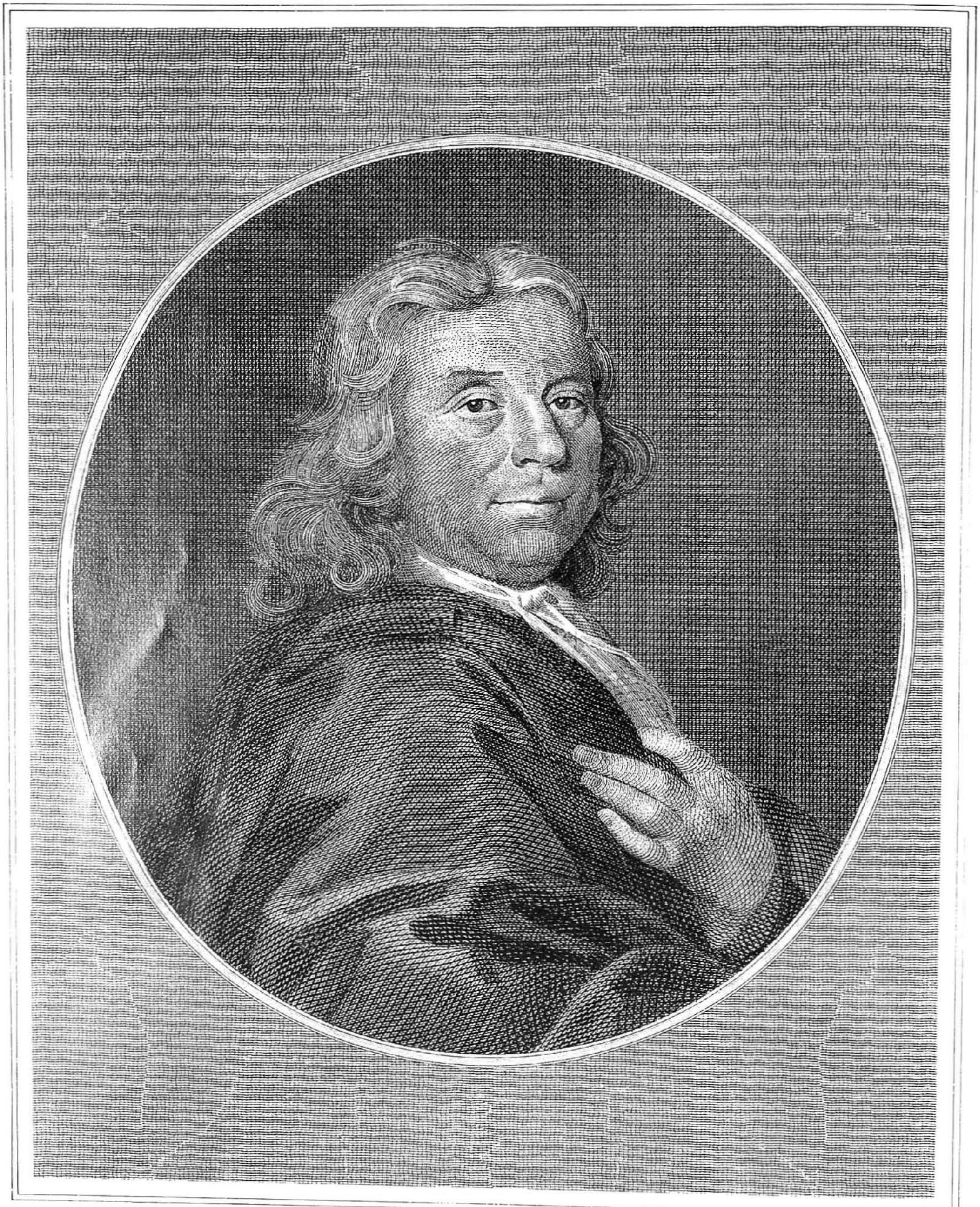

Smith Sc. 65 High Holborn.

CAPT. ROBT. KNOX

Painted from the Life; & Engraved by R. White. 1695.

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TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DETAINING IN CAPTIVITY THE AUTHOR, AND DIVERS OTHER ENGLISHMEN NOW LIVING THERE; AND OF THE AUTHOR'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

ROBERT KNOX

ILLUSTRATED WITH FIGURES AND A MAP OF THE ISLAND

ASIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
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AN ACCOUNT OF THE DETAINING IN CAPTIVITY THE AUTHOR, AND DIVERS OTHER ENGLISHMEN NOW LIVING THERE; AND OF THE AUTHOR'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

BY ROBERT KNOX,

A CAPTIVE THERE NEAR TWENTY YEARS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FIGURES, AND A MAP OF THE ISLAND.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JOSEPH MAWMAN, LUDGATE STREET,

BY J. F. DOVE, ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

1817.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL

The Governor, the Deputy Governor, and Four-and-Twenty Committees of the Honourable East India Company,

Sir Josiah Child, Baronet, Governor.
Thomas Papilion, Esq. Deputy.

The Right Honourable George Earl of Berkley,
Sir Joseph Ashe, Baronet,
Sir Samuel Barnardiston, Bart.
Mr. Christopher Boone,
Mr. Thomas Canham,
Colonel John Clerke,
Mr. John Cudworth,
John Dubois, Esq.
Sir James Edwards, Knight, and Alderman,
Richard Hutchinson, Esq.
Mr. Joseph Herne,
Mr. William Hedges,
Sir John Lawrence, Knight, and Alderman,
Mr. Nathaniel Letton,
Sir John Moore, Knight and Alderman,
Samuel Moyer, Esq.
Mr. John Morden,
Mr. John Paige,
Edward Rudge, Esq.
Mr. Jeremy Sambrooke,
Mr. William Sedgwick,
Robert Thomson, Esq.
Samuel Thomson, Esq.
James Ward, Esq.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL,

WHAT I formerly presented you in writing, having, in pursuance of your commands, now somewhat dressed, by the help of the printer and graver, I a second time humbly tender to you. 'Tis, I confess, at best, too mean a return for your great kindness to me; yet I hope you will not deny it a favourable acceptance, since it is the whole return I made from the Indies, after twenty years stay there, having brought home nothing else; but

Who is also wholly at your

Service and Command,

ROBERT KNOX.

London, 1st of August, 1681.

At the Court of Committees for the East-India Company, the 10th of August, 1681.

WE esteem Captain Knox a man of truth and integrity, and that his relations and accounts of the Island of Ceylon, (which some of us have lately perused in manuscripts) are worthy of credit, and therefore encouraged him to make the same public.

ROBERT BLACKBOURNE, *Secretary.*

By Order of the said Court.

August 8*th*, 1681.

MR. CHISWELL,

I perused Captain Knox's description of the Isle of Ceylon, which seems to be written with great truth and integrity; and the subject being new, containing an account of a people and country little known to us—I conceive it may give great satisfaction to the curious, and may be well worth your publishing.

CHR. WREN.

PREFACE.

How much of the present knowledge of the parts of the world is owing to late discoveries, may be judged by comparing the modern with the ancient accounts thereof; though possibly many such histories may have been written in former ages, yet few have escaped the injury of time, so as to be handed safe to us. 'Twas many ages, possibly before writing was known, then known to a few, and made use of by fewer, and fewest employed it to this purpose. Add to this, that such as were written remained, for the most part, imprisoned in the cells of some library or study, accessible to a small number of mankind, and regarded by a less, which after perished with the place, or the decay of their own substance. This we may judge from the loss of those many writings mentioned by Pliny, and other of the ancients; and we had yet found fewer, if the art of printing, first invented about two hundred and forty years since, had not secured most that lasted to that time. Since which, that loss has been repaired by a vast number of new accessions, which, besides the satisfaction they have given to curious and inquisitive men, by increasing their knowledge, have excited many more to the like attempts, not only of making, but of publishing also their discoveries: but I am not ignorant still, that as discoveries have been this way preserved, so many others have been lost, to the great detriment of the public. It were very desirable, therefore, that the causes of these and other defects being known, some remedies might be found, to prevent the like losses for the future.

The principal causes, I conceive, may be these:

First, The want of sufficient instructions to seamen and travellers, to shew them what is pertinent and considerable to be observed in their voyages and abodes, and how to make their observations, and keep registers or accounts of them.

Next, The want of some public encouragement for such as shall perform such instructions.

Thirdly, the want of fit persons both to promote and disperse such instructions to persons fitted to engage, and careful to collect returns, and compose them into histories; by examining the persons more at large upon those and other particulars; and by separating what is pertinent from what is not so, and to be rejected; who should have also wherewith to gratify every one according to his performances.

Fourthly, The want of some easy way to have all such printed: first singly, and afterwards divers of them together. It having been found that many small tracts are lost after printing, as well as many that are never printed; upon which account we are much obliged to Mr. Haclute and Mr. Purchas, for preserving many such in their works.

Fifthly, The want of taking care to collect all such relations of voyages, and account of countries, as have been published in other languages, and translating them either into English, or (which will be of more general use) into Latin, the learned language of Europe; there being many such in other countries hardly ever heard of in England.

The difficulties of removing which defects is not so great, but that it might easily fall even within the compass of a private ability to remove, if at least public authority would but countenance the design; how much less then would it be, if the same would afford also some moderate encouragement and reward?

The Royal Society of London, for Improving Natural Knowledge, has not been wanting in preparing and dispersing instructions to this end; and is ready still to promote it, if the public would allow a recompense to the undertakers. The desirableness and facility of this undertaking may, I hope, in a

short time, produce the expedients also. In the interim, all means should be used, to try what may be obtained from the generosity of such as have had the opportunities of knowing foreign countries.

There are but few who, though they know much, can yet be persuaded they know any thing worth communicating, and because the things are common and well known to them, are apt to think them so to the rest of mankind: this prejudice has done much mischief in this particular, as well as in many other, and must be first removed. There are others, that are conscious enough of their own knowledge, and yet, either for want of ability to write well, or of use to compose, or of time to study and digest, or out of modesty and fear to be in print, or because they think they know not enough to make a volume, or for not being prompted to, or earnestly solicited for it, neglect to do it; others delay to do it so long, till they have forgotten what they intended. Such as these importunity would prevail upon to disclose their knowledge, if fitting persons were found to discourse and ask them questions, and to compile the answers into a history. Of this kind was lately produced, in High Dutch, a History of Greenland, by Dr. Fogelius, of Hamborough, from the information of Frederick Martin, who had made several voyages to that place, in the doing of which he made use of the instruction given by the Royal Society.

'Tis much to be wondered that we should, to this day, want a good history of most of our West Indian Plantations. Ligon has done well for the Barbadoes, and somewhat has been done for the Summer Islands, Virginia, &c. But how far are all these short, even of the knowledge of these and other places of the West Indies, which may be obtained from divers knowing planters now residing in London? and how easy were it to obtain what is defective, from some ingenious persons now re-

sident upon the places, if some way were found to gratify them for their performances. However, till such be found, 'tis to be hoped, that the kind acceptance only the public shall give to this present work, may excite several other ingenious and knowing men to follow this generous example of Captain Knox; who, though he could bring away nothing almost upon his back, or in his purse, did yet transport the whole kingdom of Candy Uda in his head; and by writing and publishing this his knowledge, has freely given it to his country, and to you, reader, in particular.

'Twas not, I confess, without the earnest solicitations and endeavours of myself, and some others of his friends, obtained from him; but this uneasiness of parting with it was not for want of generosity and freedom enough in communicating whatever he knew or had observed, but from that usual prejudice of modesty, and too mean an opinion of his own knowledge and abilities, of doing any thing should be worthy the view of the public: and, had he found leisure to compose it, he could have filled a much greater volume with useful and pertinent, as well as unusual and strange observations. He could have enriched it with a more particular description of many of their curious plants, fruits, birds, fishes, insects, minerals, stones; and told you many more of the medicinal, and other uses of them, in trades and manufactures. He could have given you a complete dictionary of their language; understanding and speaking it as well as his mother tongue; but his occasions would not permit him to do more at present. Yet the civil usage this his first-born meets with among his countrymen, may, it is hoped, oblige him to gratify them with further discoveries and observations in his future travels.

To conclude, he has in this history given you a taste of his observations; in which most readers, though of very differing

gusts, may find somewhat very pleasant to their palate. The statesman, divine, physician, lawyer, merchant, mechanic, husbandman, may select something for their entertainment: the philosopher and historian much more. I believe, at least, all that love truth will be pleased; for, from that little conversation I had with him, I conceive him to be no ways prejudiced or biassed by interest, affection or hatred, fear or hopes, or the vain-glory of telling strange things, so as to make him swerve from the truth of matter of fact: and for his opportunity of being informed, any one may satisfy himself, when he understands his almost twenty years abode and converse among them. His skill in the language and customs of the people, his way of employment in travelling and trading over all parts of the kingdom; add to this his breeding, till nineteen years of age, under his father, a captain for the East India Company, and his own natural and acquired parts; but, above all, his good reputation, which may be judged from the employment that Worshipful Company have now freely bestowed upon him; having made him commander of the Tarquin merchant, and entrusted him to undertake a voyage to Tarquin.

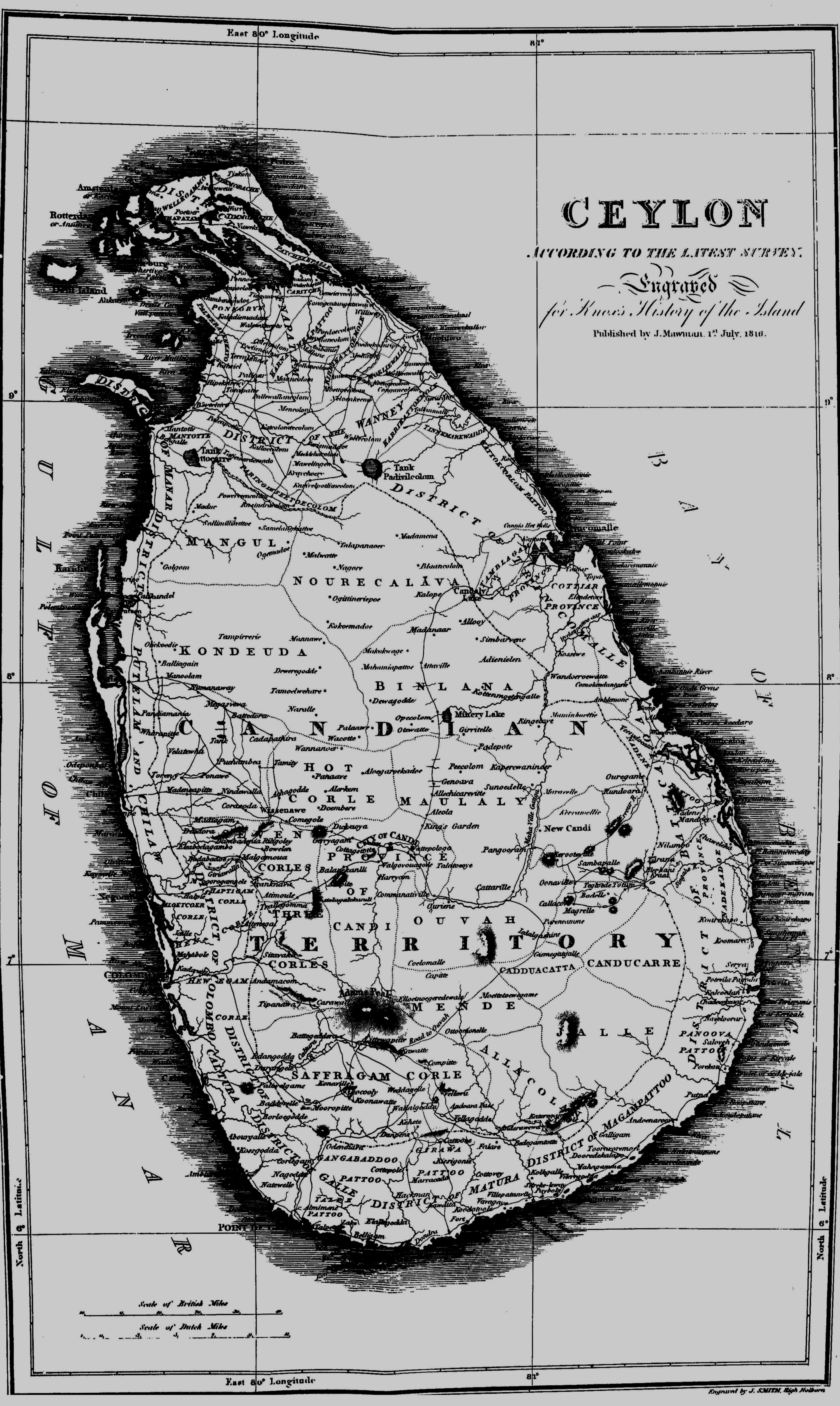
Read, therefore, the book itself, and you will find yourself taken captive indeed; but used more kindly by the author, than he himself was by the natives.

After a general view of the sea coasts, he will lead you into the country by the watches, through the thorny gates, then conduct you round upon the mountains that encompass and fortify the whole kingdom, and by the way carry you to the top of Hommalet or Adam's Peak; from those he will descend with you, and shew you their chief cities and towns, and pass through them into the country, and there acquaint you with their husbandry; then entertain you with the fruits, flowers, herbs, roots, plants, and trees; and, by the way, shelter you

from sun and rain with a fan made of the talipat leaf. Then shew you their beasts, birds, fish, serpents, insects; and, last of all, their commodities. From hence he will carry you to court, and shew you the king in the several estates of his life; and acquaint you with his way of governing, revenues, treasures, officers, governors, military strength, wars: and, by the way, entertain you with an account of the late rebellion against him: after which he will bring you acquainted with the inhabitants themselves, whence you may know their different hu mours, ranks, and qualities. Then you may visit their temples, such as they are, and see the foppery of their priests, religious opinions and practices, both in their worship and festivals; and afterwards go home to their houses, and be acquainted with their conversation and entertainment; see their housewifery, furniture, finery; and understand how they breed and dispose of their children in marriage; and in what employments and recreations they pass their time. Then you may acquaint yourself with their language, learning, laws, and, if you please, with their magic and juggling; and, last of all, with their diseases, sickness, death, and manner of burial. After which he will give you a full account of the reason of his own going to, and detainment in the the Island of Ceylon and kingdom of Candy Uda; and of all his various conditions, and the accidents that befel him there, during nineteen years and an half's abode among them; and by what ways and means at last he made his escape, and returned safe into England, in September last, 1680.

ROBERT HOOKE.

Aug. 1, 1681.


CEYLON
ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SURVEY.
Engraved
for Knox's History of the Island
Published by J. Mawman, 1st July, 1816.
East 80° Longitude
North 6° Latitude
GULF OF MANAR
BAY OF BENGAL
CANDIAN TERRITORY
DISTRICT OF MANAR
DISTRICT OF THE WANNEY
DISTRICT OF PUTELAM AND CHILAW
DISTRICT OF COLOMBO
DISTRICT OF CALTURA
DISTRICT OF GALLE
DISTRICT OF MATURA
DISTRICT OF MAGAMPATTOO
DISTRICT OF BATTICALOA
DISTRICT OF TRINCOMALLE
PROVINCE OF NADEKADOE
MANGUL
NOURECALAVA
KONDEUDA
BINLANA
HOT CORLE
CORLE MAULALY
CITY OF CANDI
THREE CORLES
CANDI OUVAH
SAFFRAGAM CORLE
ALLACOLALLE
MENDE
CADDUCATTA
CANDUCARRE
Adams Peak
Tank Padivilcolom
Mahaville Ganga
New Candi
Colombo
Point de Galle
Trincomalle
Scale of British Miles
Scale of Dutch Miles
Engraved by J. Smith, High Holborn

AN

HISTORICAL RELATION

OF

CEYLON,

AN

ISLAND IN THE EAST INDIES.

PART I.

CHAP. I.

A General Description of the Island.

How this Island lies with respect unto the neighbouring countries I shall not speak at all, that being to be seen in our ordinary sea cards, which describe those parts; and but little concerning the maritime parts of it, now under the jurisdiction of the Dutch: my design being to relate such things only that are new and unknown unto these European nations. It is the inland country, therefore, I chiefly intend to write of, which is yet

an hidden land even to the Dutch themselves, that inhabit upon the Island. For I have seen among them a fair large map of this place, the best I believe extant, yet very faulty: the ordinary maps in use among us are much more so. I have procured a new one to be drawn, with as much truth and exactness as I could, and his judgment will not be deemed altogether inconsiderable, who had for twenty years travelled about the Island, and knew almost every step of those parts, especially, that most want describing.

I begin with the sea coasts: all of which the Hollander is master. On the north end, the chief places are Jafnipatan, and the Island of Manaur. On the east side, Trenkimalay, and Batticalow. To the south is the city of Point de Galle. On the west the city of Columbo, so called from a tree the natives call ambo, (which bears the mango fruit) growing in that place; but this never bears fruit, but only leaves, which in their language is cola, and thence they called the tree colaambo; which the Christians, in honour of Columbus, returned to Columbo. It is the chief city on the sea coasts, where the chief governor hath his residence. On this side also is Negumba, and Colpentine: all these already mentioned are strong fortified places. There are, besides, many other smaller forts and fortifications; all which, with considerable territories, to wit, all round bordering upon the sea coasts, belong to the Dutch nation.

A general division of the inland country.

I proceed to the inland country, being that that is now under the King of Candy. It is convenient that we first understand, that this land is divided into greater or less shares or parts. The greater divisions give me leave to call provinces, and the less, counties, as resembling ours in England, though not altogether

so big. On the north parts lies the province of Nourecalava, consisting of five lesser divisions or counties: the province also of Hotcourly, (signifying seven counties) it contains seven counties. On the eastward is Mautaly, containing three counties. There are also lying on that side, Tammanquod, Bintana, Vellas, Paunoa; these are single counties. Ouvah also containing three counties. In this province are two and thirty of the king's captains dwelling with their soldiers. In the midland, within those already mentioned, lie Wallaponahoy, (it signifies fifty holes or vales, which describe the nature of it, being nothing but hills and valleys) Poncipot, (signifying five hundred soldiers) Goddaponahoy, (signifying fifty pieces of dry land) Hevoihattay, (signifying sixty soldiers) Cotemul, Horseput, (four hundred soldiers) Tunponahoy, (three fifties) Oudanour, (it signifies the upper city) where I lived last and had land, Tattanour, (the lower city) in which stands the royal and chief city, Candy. These two counties I last named have the pre-eminence of all the rest in the land. They are most populous and fruitful. The inhabitants thereof are the chief and principal men: insomuch, that it is an usual saying among them, that if they want a king, they may take any man, of either of these two counties, from the plough, and wash the dirt off him, and he by reason of his quality and descent is fit to be a king. And they have this peculiar privilege, that none may be their governor, but one born in their own country. These lie to the westward that follow:—Oudipollat, Dolusbaug, Hotteracourly, containing four counties; Portaloon, Tuncourly, containing three counties; Cuttiar; which last, together with Batticalaw, and a part of Tuncourly, the Hollander took from the king during my being there. There are about ten or twelve more unnamed, next bordering on the coasts, which are under the Hollander. All these provinces and

counties, excepting six, Tammanquod, Vellas, Paunoa, Hottera-courly, Hotcurly, and Neurecalava, lie upon hills fruitful and well watered; and therefore they are called in one word Conde Uda, which signifies, On Top of the Hills, and the king is styled, the king of Conde Uda.

Each country divided by woods.

All these counties are divided each from other by great woods; which none may fell, being preserved for fortifications. In most of them there are watches kept constantly, but in troublesome times in all.

The country hilly, but enriched with rivers.

The land is full of hills, but exceedingly well watered, there being many pure and clear rivers running through them; which falling down about their lands is a very great benefit for the country in respect to their rice, their chief sustenance. These rivers are generally very rocky, and so unnavigable. In them are great quantities of fish, and the greater for want of skill in the people to catch them. The main river of all is called Mavelagonga; which proceeds out of the mountain, called Adam's Peak (of which afterwards); it runs through the whole land northward, and falls into the sea at Trenkimalay; it may be an arrow's flight over in breadth, but not navigable, by reason of the many rocks and great falls in it: towards the sea it is full of alligators, but on the mountains none at all.

The great river Mavelagonga described.

It is so deep, that unless it be mighty dry weather a man cannot wade over it, unless towards the head of it. They use little canoes to pass over it: but there are no bridges built over it, being so broad; and the stream in time of rains (which in this country are very great) runs so high, that they cannot make them; neither if they could, would it be permitted: for the king careth

not to make his country easy to travel, but desires to keep it intricate. This river runs within a mile or less of the city of Candy. In some places of it, full of rocks; in others, clear for three or four miles.

There is another good large river running through Cotemul, and falls into that before mentioned. There are divers other brave rivers that water the country, though none navigable for the cause abovesaid.

The land is generally covered with woods, excepting the kingdom of Ovuah, and the counties of Oudipallet and Dolusbaug, which are naturally somewhat clear of them. Woody.

It is most populous about the middle, least near about by the sea: how it is with those parts under the Hollander I know not. The northern parts are somewhat sickly, by reason of bad water, the rest very healthful. Where most populous and healthful.

The valleys between their hills are many of them quagmires, and most of them full of brave springs of pure water: which watery valleys are the best sort of land for their corn, as requiring much moisture, as shall be told in its place. The nature of the valleys.

On the south side of Conde Uda is a hill, supposed to be the highest on this Island, called, in the Chingulay language, Hamalell; but, by the Portuguese and the European nations, Adam's Peak. It is sharp like a sugar loaf, and on the top a flat stone with the print of a foot like a man's on it, but far bigger, being about too feet long. The people of this land count it meritorious to go and worship this impression; and generally about their new The great hill, Adam's Peak, described.

year, which is in March, they, men, women, and children, go up this vast and high mountain to worship: the manner of which I shall write hereafter, when I come to describe their religion. Out of this mountain arise many fine rivers, which run through the land, some to the westward, some to the southward, and the main river, viz. Mavelagonga before mentioned, to the northward.

The natural strength of this kingdom.

This kingdom of Conde Uda is strongly fortified by nature; for which way soever you enter into it, you must ascend vast and high mountains, and descend little or nothing. The ways are many, but very narrow, so that but one can go abreast. The hills are covered with wood and great rocks; so that it is scarce possible to get up any where, but only in the paths; in all which there are gates made of thorns, the one at the bottom, the other at the top of the hills, and two or three men always set to watch, who are to examine all that come and go, and see what they carry, that letters may not be conveyed, nor prisoners or other slaves run away. These watches, in case of opposition, are to call out to the towns near, who are to assist them. They oftentimes have no arms, for they are the people of the next towns: but their weapons to stop people are to charge them in the king's name; which disobeyed, is so severely punished, that none dare resist. These watches are but as sentinels to give notice; for, in case of war and danger, the king sends commanders and soldiers to lie here: but of this enough—these things being more proper to be related, when we come to discourse of the policy and strength of the kingdom.

The difference of the seasons in this country.

The one part of this Island differs very much from the other, both in respect of the seasons and the soil: for when the west-

wardly winds blow, then it rains on the west side of the Island; and that is the season for them to till their grounds: and, at the same time on the east side is very fair and dry weather, and the time of their harvest. On the contrary, when the east winds blow, it is tilling time for those that inhabit the east parts, and harvest to those on the west: so that harvest is here in one part or other all the year long. These rains and this dry weather do part themselves about the middle of the land, as oftentimes I have seen—being on the one side of a mountain, called Cauragashing, rainy and wet weather, and, as soon as I came on the other, dry, and so exceeding hot, that I could scarcely walk on the ground, being, as the manner there is, barefoot.

What parts have most rain.

It rains far more in the high lands of Conde Uda, than in the low lands beneath the hills. The north end of this Island is much subject to dry weather. I have known it for five or six years together so dry, (having no rains, and there is no other means of water but that, being but three springs of running water, that I know, or ever heard of) that they could not plough nor sow, and scarcely could dig wells deep enough to get water to drink; and, when they got it, its taste was brackish. At which time in other parts there wanted not rain; whither the northern people were forced to come to buy food. Let this suffice to have spoken of the countries, soil, and nature of this Island in general. I will proceed to speak of the cities and towns of it, together with some other remarkable matters thereunto belonging.

CHAP. II.

Concerning the Chief Cities and Towns of this Island.

The most eminent cities are five.

IN this Island are several places, where they say formerly stood cities, and still retain the name, though little or nothing of building be now to be seen: but yet there are five cities now standing, which are the most eminent, and where the king hath palaces and goods; yet even these, all of them, except that wherein his person is, are ruined and fallen to decay.

Candy.

The first is the city of Candy, so generally called by the Christians, probably from Conde, which, in the Chingulay's language, signifies hills, for among them it is situated; but by the inhabitants called Hingodagul-neure; as much as to say, the city of the Chingulay people, and Mauneur, signifying the chief, or royal city. This is the chief or metropolitical city of the whole Island. It is placed in the midst of the Island in Tattanour, bravely situate for all conveniences, excellently well watered. The king's palace stands on the east corner of the city, as is customary in this land for the king's palaces to stand. This city is three-square like a triangle, but no artificial strength about it, unless on the south-side, which is the easiest and openest way to it, they have long since cast up a bank of earth cross the valley from one hill to the other; which, nevertheless, is not so steep but that a man may easily go over it any where: it may be some twenty feet in height. In every way to come to

this city, about two or three miles off from it, are thorn-gates and watches to examine all that go and come: it is environed round with hills. The great river coming down from Adam's Peak runs within less than a mile of it on the west side: it has oftentimes been burnt by the Portuguese in their former invasions of this Island, together with the king's palace and the temples; insomuch that the king has been fain to pay them a tribute of three elephants *per annum*. The king left this city about twenty years ago, and never since has come at it; so that it is now quite gone to decay.

A second city is Nellemby-neur, lying in Oudipollat, south of Candy, some twelve miles distance. Unto this the king retired, and here kept his court, when he forsook Candy. Nellemby.

Thirdly, The city Allout-neur, on the north-east of Candy. Allout-neur. Here this king was born; here also he keeps great store of corn and salt, &c. against war or trouble. This is situate in the country of Bintan, which land I have never been at, but have taken a view of from the top of a mountain: it seems to be smooth land, and not much hilly; the great river runneth through the midst of it. It is all over covered with mighty woods and abundance of deer; but much subject to dry weather and sickness. In these woods is a sort of wild people inhabiting, whom we shall speak of in their place. The country of Bintan described.

Fourthly, Badoula, eastward from Candy some two days journey, the second city in this land. The Portuguese, in time of war, burnt it down to the ground. The palace here is quite ruined; the pagodas only remain in good repair. Badoula.

The province of Ouvah.

This city stands in the kingdom or province of Ouvah, which is a country well watered, the land not smooth, neither the hills very high; wood very scarce, but what they plant about their houses: but great plenty of cattle; their land void of wood, being the more apt for grazing. If these cattle be carried to any other parts in this Island they will commonly die, the reason whereof no man can tell; only they conjecture it is occasioned by a kind of small tree or shrub, that grows in all countries but in Ouvah, the touch or scent of which may be poison to the Ouvah cattle, though it is not so to other. The tree hath a pretty physical smell like an apothecaries shop, but no sort of cattle will eat it. In this country grows the best tobacco that is on this land. Rice is more plenty here than most other things.

Digligy, the place of the king's constant residence.

The fifth city is Digligy-neur, towards the east of Candy, lying in the country of Hevahatts; where the king, ever since he was routed from Nellemby, in the rebellion anno 1664, hath held his court. The situation of this place is very rocky and mountainous, the lands barren; so that hardly a worse place could be found out in the whole Island. Yet the king chose it, partly because it lies about the middle of his kingdom, but chiefly for his safety; having the great mountain Gauluda behind his palace, unto which he fled for safety in the rebellion, being not only high, but on the top of it lie three towns, and corn fields, whence he may have necessary supplies; and, it is so fenced with steep cliffs, rocks, and woods, that a few men here will be able to defend themselves against a great army.

Gauluda.

Many ruins of cities.

There are, besides those already mentioned, several other ruinous places, that do still retain the name of cities, where

kings have reigned, though now little footsteps remaining of them. At the north-end of this king's dominions is one of these ruinous cities, called Anurodgburro, where they say ninety kings have reigned, the spirits of whom they hold now to be saints in glory, having merited it by making pagodas and stone pillars and images to the honour of their gods, whereof there are many yet remaining; which the Chingulayes count very meritorious to worship, and the next way to heaven. Near by is a river, by which we came when we made our escape; all along which is abundance of hewed stones, some long for pillars, some broad for paving. Over this river there have been three stone bridges built upon stone pillars, but now are fallen down; and the country all desolate without inhabitants. At this city of Anurodgburro is a watch kept, beyond which are no more people that yield obedience to the King of Candy. This place is above ninety miles to the northward of the city of Candy. In these northern parts there are no hills, nor but two or three springs of running water; so that their corn ripeneth with the help of rain.

Anurodgburro.

The nature of the northern parts.

There is a port in the country of Portaloon, lying on the west side of this Island, whence part of the king's country is supplied with salt and fish; where they have some small trade with the Dutch, who have a fort upon the point to prevent boats from coming. But the eastern parts being too far and hilly to drive cattle thither for salt, God's providence hath provided them a place on the east side nearer them, which, in their language, they call Leawava, where the easterly winds blowing, the sea beats in, and in westwardly winds (being then fair weather there) it becomes salt, and that in such abundance, that they have as much as they please to fetch. This place of Leawava is so con-

The port of Portaloon: it affords salt.

Leawava affords salt in abundance.

Described.

trived by the providence of the Almighty Creator, that neither the Portuguese nor Dutch, in all the time of their wars, could ever prevent this people from having the benefit of this salt, which is the principal thing that they esteem in time of trouble or war; and most of them do keep by them a store of salt against such times. It is, as I have heard, environed with hills on the land side, and by sea not convenient for ships to ride; and very sickly, which they do impute to the power of a great god, who dwelleth near by, in a town they call Cotteragon, standing in the road, to whom all that go to fetch salt, both small and great, must give an offering. The name and power of this god striketh such terror into the Chingulays, that those, who otherwise are enemies to this king, and have served both Portuguese and Dutch against him, yet would never assist either to make invasions this way.

Their towns how built.

Having said thus much concerning the cities and other eminent places of this kingdom, I will now add a little concerning their towns. The best are those that do belong to their idols, wherein stand their dewals or temples. They do not care to make streets by building their houses together in rows, but each man lives by himself in his own plantation, having a hedge it may be, and a ditch round about him, to keep out cattle. Their towns are always placed some distance from the highways; for they care not that their towns should be a thoroughfare for all people, but only for those that have business with them. They are not very big; in some may be forty, in some fifty houses, and in some above a hundred; and in some again not above eight or ten.

Many lie in ruins, and

And, as I said before of their cities, so I must of their towns,

that there are many of them here and there lie desolate, occasioned by their voluntary forsaking them, which they often do, in case many of them fall sick, and two or three die soon after one another; for this they conclude to happen from the hand of the devil: whereupon they all leave their town and go to another, thinking thereby to avoid him; thus relinquishing both their houses and lands too. Yet afterwards, when they think the devil hath departed the place, some will sometimes come back and re-assume their lands again.

forsaken, and upon what occasion.

CHAP. III.

Of their Corn, with their Manner of Husbandry.

The product and commodities of the country.

HAVING discoursed hitherto of the country, method will require that I proceed now to the products of it: viz. their fruits, plants, beasts, birds, and other creatures, minerals, commodities, &c. whereof I must declare, once for all, that I do not pretend to write an exact and perfect treatise, my time and leisure not permitting me so to do; but only to give a relation of some of the chief of these things, and as it were a taste of them, according as they that occur to my memory while I am writing. I shall first begin with their corn, as being the staff of their country.

Corn of divers sorts.

They have divers sorts of corn, though all different from ours. And here I shall first speak of their rice, the choice and flower of all their corn, and then concerning the other inferior kinds among them.

Rice.

Of rice they have several sorts, and called by several names, according to the different times of their ripening: however, in taste little disagreeing from one another. Some will require seven months before it come to maturity, called mauvi; some six, hauteal; others will ripen in five, honorowal; others in four. henit; and others in three, aulfancol: the price of these is one and the same. That which is soonest ripe, is most savoury to the taste; but yieldeth the least increase. It may be asked then, why any other sort of rice is sown, but that which is

longest a ripening, seeing it brings in most profit? In answer to this, you must know, that all these sorts of rice do absolutely require water to grow in, all the while they stand; so that the inhabitants take great pains in procuring and saving water for their grounds, and in making conveyances of water from their rivers and ponds into their lands, which they are very ingenious in; also in levelling their corn lands, which must be as smooth as a bowling green, that the water may cover all over. Neither are their steep and hilly lands incapable of being thus overflown with water; for the doing of which they use this art: they level these hills into narrow alleys, some three, some eight feet wide, one beneath another, according to the steepness of the hills, working and digging them in that fashion, that they lie smooth and flat, like so many stairs up the hills, one above another. The waters at the top of the hills falling downwards are let into these alleys, and so successively, by running out of one into the other, water all; first the higher lands, and then the lower. The highest alleys have such a quantity of water as may suffice to cover them, the rest runs over unto the next, and that, having its proportion, unto the next, and so by degrees it falls into all these hanging parcels of ground: these waters last sometimes a longer, and sometimes a shorter season. Now the rice they sow is according as they foresee their stock of water will last. It will sometimes last them two or three, or four or five months, more or less; the rice, therefore, they choose to cast into the ground, is of that sort that may answer the duration of the water: for all this crop would be spoilt if the water should fail them before their corn grew ripe. If they foresee their water will hold out long, then they sow the best and most profitable rice, viz. that which is longest a ripening; but, if it will not, they must be content to sow of the worser sorts; that is, those

Grows in water.

Their ingenuity in watering their corn lands.

Why they do not always sow the best kind of rice.

that are sooner ripe. Again, they are forced sometimes to sow this younger rice, for preventing the damage it might otherwise meet with, if it should stand longer: for their fields are all in common; which, after they have sown, they enclose till harvest. But as soon as the corn first sown becomes ripe, when the owner has reaped it, it is lawful for him to break down his fences, and let in his cattle for grazing; which would prove a great mischief to that corn that required to stand a month or two longer. Therefore, if they are constrained to sow later than the rest, either through want, or sloth, or any other impediment, yet they make use of that kind of rice that will become ripe equal with that first sown. And so they all observe one time of reaping to prevent their corn being trampled down or eaten up by the cattle. Thus they time their corn to their harvest; some sowing sooner, some later, but all reaping together, unless they be fields that are enclosed by themselves, and peculiar to one man.

They sow at different times, but reap together.

Their artificial pools.

Where there are no springs or rivers to furnish them with water, as it is in the northern parts, where there are but two or three springs, they supply this defect by saving of rain water; which they do by casting up great banks in convenient places, to stop and contain the rains that fall, and so save it till they have occasion to let it out into their fields: they are made rounding like a C, or half moon; every town has one of these ponds, which, if they can but get filled with water, they count their corn is as good as in the barn. It was no small work to the ancient inhabitants to make all these banks, of which there is a great number; being some two, some three fathoms in height, and in length, some above a mile, some less—not all of a size. They are now grown over with great trees, and so seem natural hills.

When they would use the water, they cut a gap in one end of the bank, and so draw the water by little and little, as they have occasion for the watering their corn: these ponds in dry weather dry up quite. If they should dig these ponds deep, it would not be so convenient for them; it would, indeed, contain the water well, but would not so well nor in such plenty empty out itself into their grounds. In these ponds are alligators, which, when the water is dried up, depart into the woods, and down to the rivers; and in the time of rains come up again into the ponds. They are but small, nor do use to catch people; nevertheless they stand in some fear of them. The corn they sow in these parts is of that sort that is soonest ripe, fearing lest their waters should fail. As the water dries out of these ponds, they make use of them for fields, treading the mud with buffaloes, and then sowing rice thereon, and frequently casting up water with scoops on it. I have hitherto spoken of those rices that require to grow in water.

Alligators harbour in them.

They sow corn on the mud.

There is yet another sort of rice, which will ripen though it stand not always in water: and this sort of corn serves for those places, where they cannot bring their waters to overflow; this will grow with the rains that fall; but is not esteemed equal with the others, and differs both in scent and taste from that which groweth in the watery fields.

A sort of rice that grows without water.

The ordinary season of seed time is in the months of July and August, and their harvest in or about February; but for land that is well watered, they regard no season; the season is all the year long. When they till their grounds, or reap their corn, they do it by whole towns, generally, all helping each other for attoms, as they call it; that is, that they may help them

The seasons of seed time and harvest.

as much, or as many days again in their fields, which accordingly they will do. They plough only with a crooked piece of wood, something like an elbow, which roots up the ground, as uneven as if it were done by hogs, and then they overflow it with water.

A particular description of their husbandry.

But if any be so curious as to know more particularly how they order and prepare their lands, and sow their corn, take this account of it. But before we go to work, it will be convenient first to describe the tools. To begin therefore with their plough.

Their plough.

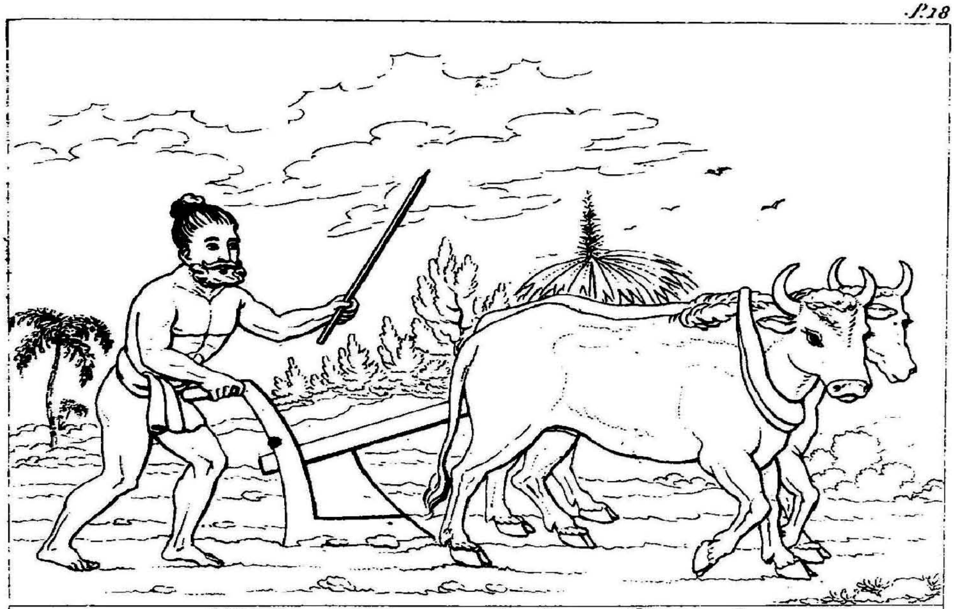
I said before it was a crooked piece of wood; it is but little bigger than a man's arm, one end whereof is to hold by, and the other to root up the ground. In the hollow of this plough is a piece of wood fastened some three or four inches thick, equal with the breadth of the plough: and at the end of the plough is fixed an iron plate to keep the wood from wearing. There is a beam let into that part of it that the ploughman holds in his hand, to which they make their buffaloes fast to drag it.

The convenience of these ploughs.

These ploughs are proper for this country, because they are lighter, and so may be the more easy for turning, the fields being short, so that they could not turn with longer, and, if heavier, they would sink and be unruly in the mud. These ploughs bury not the grass as ours do, and there is no need they should, for their endeavour is only to root up the ground, and so they overflow it with water, and this rots the grass.

Their first ploughing.

They plough twice before they sow. But before they begin the first time, they let in water upon their land, to make it more soft and pliable for the plough. After it is once ploughed, they make up their banks. For if otherwise they should let it alone



The manner of their Ploughing

Smith, sc. 85 H. Holborn

The manner of smoothing their Fields

London: Published May 10th 1816, by J. Harman

till after the second ploughing, it would be mere mud, and not hard enough to use for banking. Now these banks are greatly necessary, not only for paths for the people to go upon through the fields, who otherwise must go in the mud, it may be knee deep; but chiefly to keep in and contain their water, which by the help of these banks they overflow their grounds with. These banks they make as smooth with the backside of their houghs, as a bricklayer can smooth a wall with his trowel: for in this they are very neat. These banks are usually not above a foot over.

Their banks, and use of them.

After the land is thus ploughed and the banks finished, it is laid under water again for some time, till they go to ploughing the second time. Now it is exceeding muddy, so that the trampling of the cattle that draws the plough, does as much good as the plough; for the more muddy the better. Sometimes they use no plough this second time, but only drive their cattle over to make the ground the muddier.

Their second ploughing.

Their lands being thus ordered, they still keep them overflowed with water, that the weeds and grass may rot. Then they take their corn and lay it a soak in water a whole night, and the next day take it out, and lay it in a heap, and cover it with green leaves, and so let it lie some five or six days to make it grow. Then they take and wet it again, and lay it in a heap covered over with leaves as before, and so it grows and shoots out with blades and roots. In the mean time while this is thus a growing, they prepare their ground for sowing; which is thus: they have a board about four foot long, which they drag over their land by a yoke of buffaloes, not flat ways, but upon the edge of it. The use of which is, that it jumbles the earth and weeds together,

How the prepare their seed-corn.

And their land after it is ploughed.

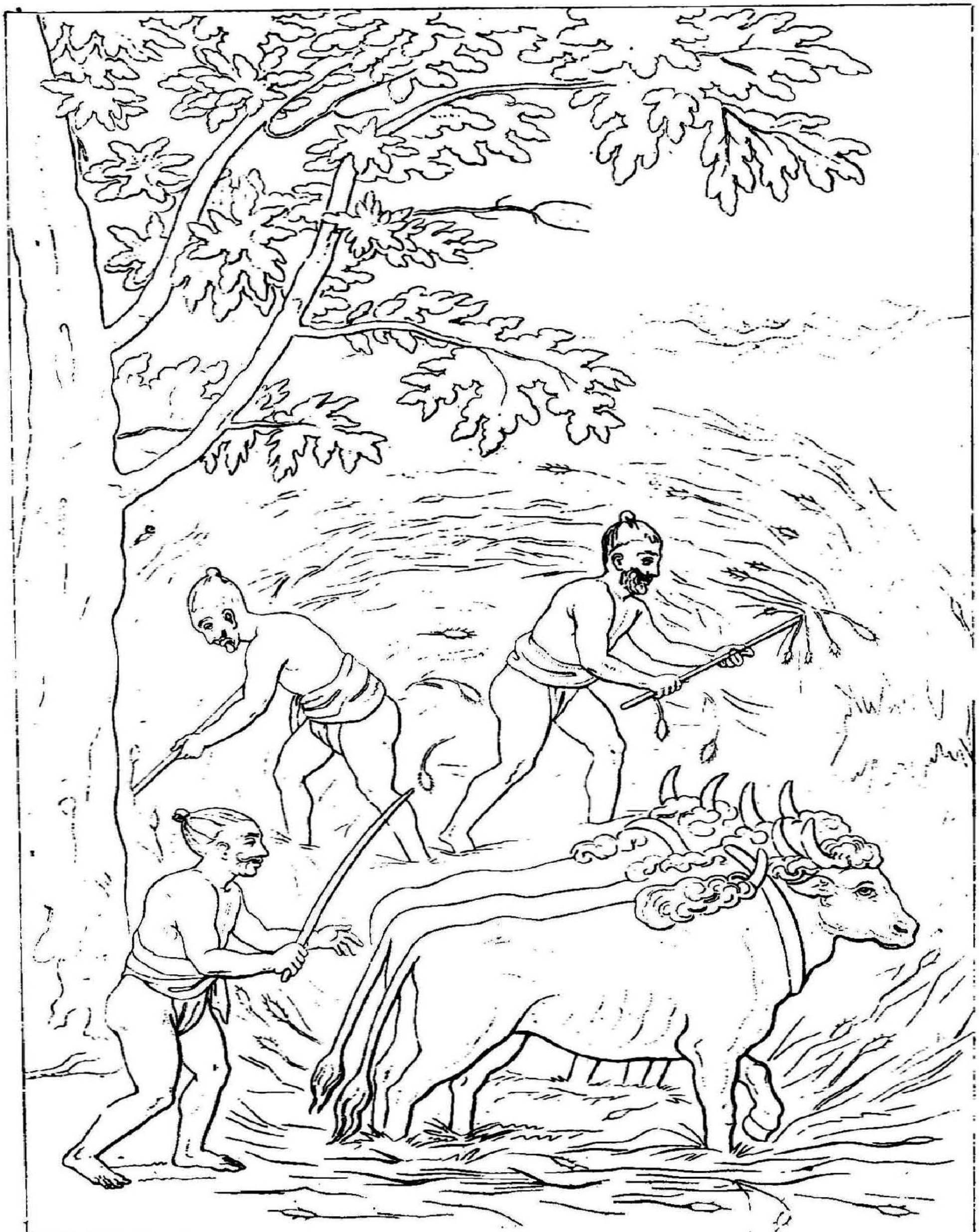
and also levels and makes the grounds smooth and even, that so the water (for the ground is all this while under water) may stand equal in all places. And wheresoever there is any little hummock standing out of the water, which they may easily see by their eye, with the help of this board they break and lay even. And so it stands overflown while their seed is growing, and become fit to sow, which usually is eight days after they lay it in soak.

When the seed is ready to sow, they drain out all the water, and with little boards of about a foot and a half long, fastened upon long poles, they trim the land over again, laying it very smooth, making small furrows all along, that in case rain or other waters should come in, it might drain away; for more water now would endanger rotting the corn. And then they sow their corn, which they do with very exact evenness, strewing it with their hands, just as we strew salt upon meat.

Their manner of sowing.

And thus it stands without any water, till such time as the corn be grown some three or four inches above the ground. There were certain gaps made in the banks to let out the water, these are now stopped to keep it in; which is not only to nourish the corn, but to kill the weeds: for they keep their fields as clean as a garden without a weed. Then when the corn is grown about a span high, the women come and weed it, and pull it up where it grew too thick, and transplant it where it wants. And so it stands overflown till the corn be ripe, when they let out the water again to make it dry for reaping. They never use any dung, but their manner of plowing and soaking of their ground serves instead thereof.

How they manure and order their young corn.



Smith sc. 65 Lt. Holborn

The manner of treading out their Rice

London: Published Mar 10th 1826. by J. Mawman

At reaping they are excellent good, just after the English manner. The whole town, as I said before, as they join together in tilling, so in their harvest also; for all fall in together in reaping one man's field, and so to the next, until every man's corn be down. And the custom is, that every man, during the reaping of his corn, finds all the rest with victuals. The womens work is to gather up the corn after the reapers, and carry it altogether.

Their manner of reaping.

They use not threshing, but tread out their corn with cattle, which is a far quicker and easier way. They may tread out in a day forty or fifty bushels at least with the help of half a dozen cattle.

They tread out their corn with cattle.

When they are to tread their corn they choose a convenient adjoining place. Here they lay out a round piece of ground some twenty or five and twenty feet over, from which they cut away the upper turf. Then certain ceremonies are used. First, they adorn this place with ashes made into flowers and branches, and round circles. Then they take divers strange shells, and pieces of iron, and some sorts of wood, and a bunch of betel nuts, (which are reserved for such purposes) and lay all these in the very middle of the pit, and a large stone upon them. Then the women, whose proper work it is, bring each their burthen of reaped corn upon their heads, and go round in the pit three times, and then fling it down. And after this without any more ado, bring in the rest of the corn as fast as they can. For this labour, and that of weeding, the women have a fee due to them, which they call *warapol*, that is, as much corn as shall cover the stone and the other conjuration instruments at the bottom of the pit.

The ceremonies they use when the corn is to be trodden.

They will frequently carry away their new reaped corn into the pit, and tread it out presently as soon as they have cut it down, to secure it from the rains, which in some parts are very great and often; and barns they have none big enough. But in other places not so much given to rains, they will sometimes set it up in a cock, and let it stand some months.

How they unhusk their rice.

They unshale their rice from its outward husk by beating it in a mortar, or on the ground more often; but some of these sorts of rice must first be boiled in the husk, otherwise in beating it will break to powder. The which rice, as it is accounted, so I by experience have found, to be the wholsomest; this they beat again the second time to take off a bran from it; and after that it becomes white. And thus much concerning rice-corn.

Other sorts of corn among them.

Besides this, though far inferior to it, there are divers other sorts of corn which serve the people for food in the absence of rice, which will scarcely hold out with many of them above half the year. There is coracan, which is a small seed like mustard-seed; this they grind to meal or beat in a mortar, and so make cakes of it, baking it upon the coals in a potsheard, or dress it otherwise. If they, which are not used to it, eat it, it will gripe their bellies; when they are minded to grind it, they have for their mill two round stones, which they turn with their hands by the help of a stick: there are several sorts of this corn. Some will ripen in three months, and some require four. If the ground be good, it yields a great increase, and grows both on the hills and in the plains. There is another corn called tanna; it is much eaten in the northern parts, in Conde Uda, but little sown. It is as small as the former, but yieldeth a far greater increase. From one grain may spring up two, three, four, or

Coracan.

Tanna.

five stalks, according as the ground is, on each stalk one ear, that contains thousands of grains. I think it gives the greatest increase of any one seed in the world. Each husbandman sows not above a pottle at a seeds-time. It grows up two foot, or two foot and an half from the ground. The way of gathering it when ripe, is, that the women (whose office it is) go and crop off the ears with their hands, and bring them home in baskets. They only take off the ears of coracan also, but they being tough, are cut off with knives. This tanna must be parched in a pan, and then is beaten in a mortar to unhusk it. It will boil like rice, but swell far more; the taste not bad but very dry, and accounted wholesome; the fashion flattish, the colour yellow and very lovely to the eye. It ripens in four months, some sorts of it in three. There are also divers other sorts, which grow on dry land (as the former) and ripen with the rain. Asmoung, a corn somewhat like vetches, growing in a cod. Omb, a small seed, boiled and eaten as rice. It has an operation pretty strange, which is, that when it is new it will make them that eat it like drunk, sick and spue; and this only when it is sown in some grounds, for in all it will not have this effect; and, being old, none will have it. Minere, a small seed. Boumas, we call them garavances. Tolla, a seed used to make oil, with which they anoint themselves; and sometimes they will parch it and eat it with jaggory, a kind of brown sugar. And thus much of their corn.

Moung.

Omb.

CHAP. IV.

Of their Fruits and Trees.

Great variety of fruits, and dilicious.

OF fruits here are great plenty and variety, and far more might be if they did esteem or nourish them. Pleasant fruits to eat ripe they care not at all to do. They look only after those that may fill the belly, and satisfy their hunger when their corn is spent, or to make it go the further. These only they plant, the other fruits of pleasure plant themselves, the seeds of the ripe fruits shedding and falling on the ground naturally spring up again. They have all fruits that grow in India. Most sorts of these delicious fruits they gather before they be ripe, and boil them to make carrees, to use the Portuguese word, that is somewhat to eat with and relish their rice. But wheresoever there is any fruit better than ordinary, the ponudecarso, or officers of the country, will tie a string about the tree in the king's name with three knots on the end thereof, and then no man, not the owner himself, dares presume under pain of some great punishment, if not death, to touch them. And when they are ripe, they are wrapped in white cloth, and carried to him who is governor of that country wherein they grow: and if they be without any defect or blemish, then being wrapped up again in white cloth, he presents them to the king. But the owner, in whose ground they grow is paid nothing at all for them: it is well if he be not compelled to carry them himself into the bargain, unto the king, be it never so far. These are reasons why the people regard not to plant more than just to keep them alive.

The best fruits, wherever they grow, reserved for the king.

But to specify some of the chief of the fruits in request among them. I begin with their betel-nuts: the trees that bear them grow only on the south and west sides of this Island. They do not grow wild, they are only in their towns, and there like unto woods without any inclosures to distinguish one man's trees from another's; but, by marks of great trees, hummacks, or rocks, each man knows his own; they plant them not, but the nuts being ripe fall down in the grass, and so grow up to trees: they are very straight and tall, few bigger than the calf of a man's leg; the nuts grow in bunches at the top, and being ripe look red and very lovely like a pleasing fruit: when they gather them, they lay them in heaps until the shell be somewhat rotted, and then dry them in the sun, and afterwards shell them with a sharp stick one and one at a time. These trees will yield some 500, some a 1000, some 1500 nuts, and some but three or four hundred; they bear but once a year generally, but commonly there are green nuts enough to eat all the year long; the leaves of it are somewhat like those of a cocoa-nut tree, they are five or six feet long, and have other lesser leaves growing out of the sides of them, like the feathers on each side of a quill. The Chingulays call the large leaves the boughs, and the leaves on the sides the leaves; they fall off every year, and the skin upon which they grow with them; these skins grow upon the body of the tree, and the leaves grow out on them; they also clap about the buds or blossoms which bear the nuts, and as the buds swell, so this skin-cover gives way to them, till at length it falls quite off with the great leaf on it; it is somewhat like unto leather, and of great use unto the country people: it serves them instead of basons to eat their rice in, and when they go a journey to tie up their provisions; for in these skins or leaves they can tie up any liquid substance, as oil or water, doubling it in the middle, and rolling it in the two

Betel-nuts. The trees. The fruit. The leaves. The skins, and their use.

sides, almost like a purse. For bigness, they are according to the trees, some bigger, some less; ordinarily they are about two feet in length, and a foot and an half in breadth. In this country there are no inns to go to, and therefore their manner, when they travel, is to carry ready dressed what provisions they can, which they make up in these leaves. The trees within have only a kind of pith, and will split from one end to the other; the wood is hard and very strong; they use it for laths for their houses, and also for rails for their hedges, which are only stakes stuck in the ground, and rails tied along with rattans, or other withs growing in the woods. Money is not very plentiful in this land: but by means of these nuts, which is a great commodity to carry to the coasts of Coromandel, they furnish themselves with all things they want. The common price of nuts, when there was a trade, as there was when I came first on this land, is 20,000 for one dollar; but now they lie and grow, or rot in the ground under the trees. Some of these nuts do differ much from others in their operation, having this effect, that they will make people drunk and giddy headed, and give them some stools, if they eat them green.

The wood.

The profit the fruit yields.

Jacks.

There is another fruit, which we call jacks; the inhabitants when they are young call them *polos*, before they be full ripe *cose*; and when ripe, *warracha* or *vellas*: but with this difference, the warracha is hard, but the vellas as soft as pap, both looking alike to the eye no difference; but they are distinct trees. These are a great help to the people, and a great part of their food. They grow upon a large tree; the fruit is as big as a good peck loaf, the outside prickly like an hedge-hog, and of a greenish colour; there are in them seeds or kernels, or eggs, as the Chingulayes call them, which lie dispersed in the fruit like seeds in a

cucumber: they usually gather them before they be full ripe, boring an hole in them, and, feeling of the kernel, they know if they be ripe enough for their purpose; then being cut in pieces, they boil them, and eat to save rice and fill their bellies: they eat them as we would do turnips or cabbage, and taste and smell much like the latter; one may suffice six or seven men. When they are ripe they are sweet and good to eat raw. The kernels do much resemble chesnuts both in colour and taste, and are almost as good: the poor people will boil or roast them in the embers, there being usually a good heap of them lying in a corner by the fire side; and, when they go a journey, they will put them in a bag for their provisions by the way. One jack may contain three pints or two quarts of these seeds or kernels. When they cut these jacks, there comes running out a white thick substance, like tar, and will stick just like birdlime, which the boys make use of to catch birds, which they call cola, or blood of the cos: some will mix this with the flower of rice, and it will eat like eggs.

Another fruit there is which I never saw in any other parts of India, they call it jombo; in taste it is like to an apple, full of juice, and pleasant to the palate, and not unwholesome to the body, and to the eye, no fruit more amiable, being white, and delicately coloured with red, as if it were painted. Jombo.

Also in the wild woods are several sorts of pretty fruits, as murros, round in shape, and as big as a cherry, and sweet to the taste; dongs, nearest like to a black cherry; ambelos, like to barberries; carolla cabella, cabela pooke, and pollas, these are like to little plums, and very well tasted; paragidde, like to our pears, and many more such like fruits. Other fruits found in the woods.

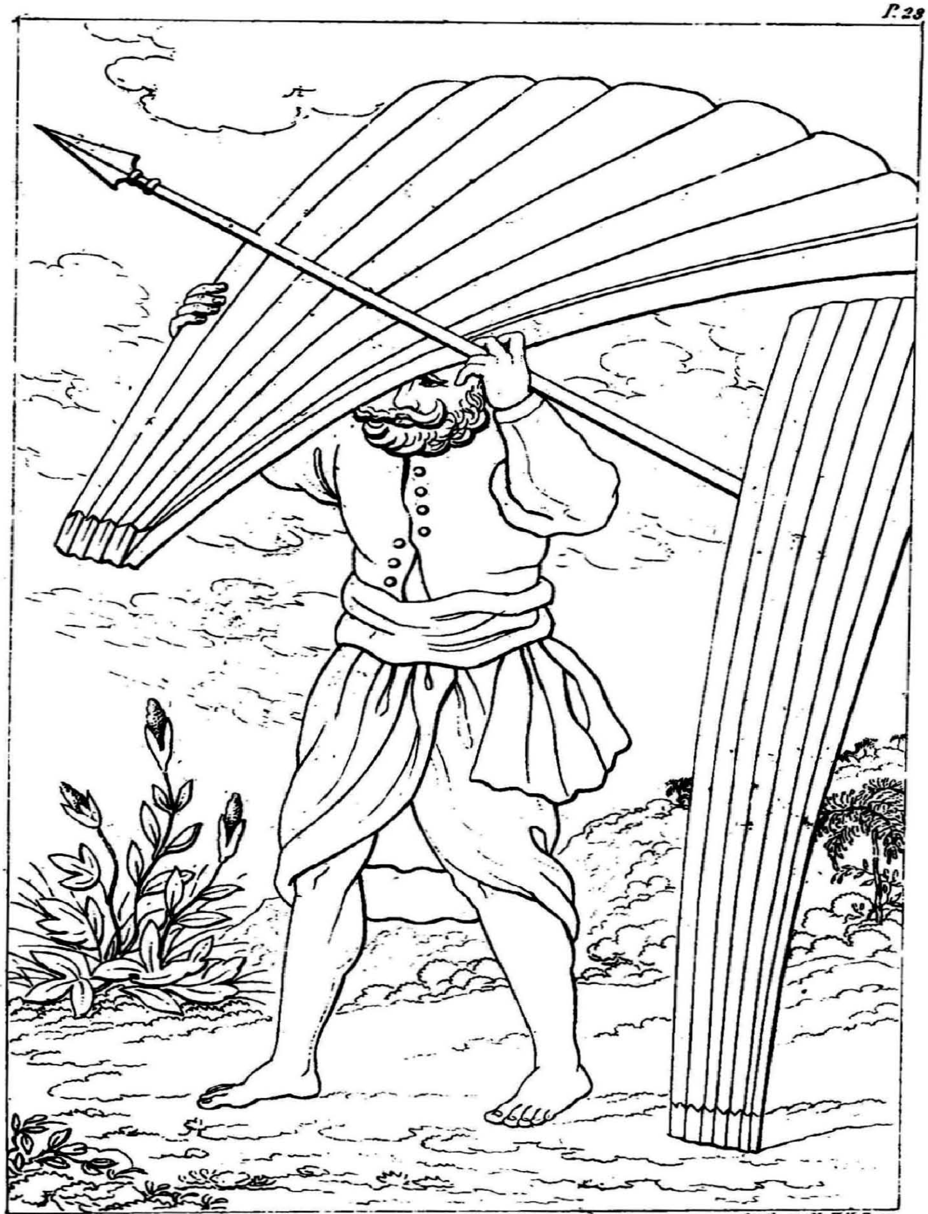
Fruits common with other parts of India.

Here are also, of Indian fruits, cocoa nuts; plantains also and bananas of divers and sundry sorts, which are distinguished by the taste as well as by the names; rare sweet oranges and sour ones, limes, but no lemons, such as ours are; pautaurings, in taste all one with a lemon, but much bigger than a man's two fists, right citrons, and a small sort of sweet oranges. Here are several other sorts of lemons, and oranges, mangoes of several sorts, and some very good and sweet to eat. In this sort of fruit the king much delights, and hath them brought to him from all parts of the Island. Pine apples also grow there, sugar canes, water melons, pomegranates, grapes both black and white, mirablins, codjeus, and several others.

There are three other trees that must not here be omitted, which, though they bear no eatable fruit, yet the leaves of the one, and the juice of the other, and the bark of the third, are very renowned, and of great benefit.

The tallipot: the rare uses of the leaf.

The first is the tallipot; it is as big and tall as a ship's mast, and very straight, bearing only leaves, which are of great use and benefit to this people; one single leaf being so broad and large, that it will cover some fifteen or twenty men, and keep them dry when it rains. The leaf being dried is very strong, and limber, and most wonderfully made for mens convenience to carry along with them; for, though this leaf be thus broad when it is open, yet it will fold close like a lady's fan, and then it is no bigger than a man's arm: it is wonderfully light: they cut them into pieces, and carry them in their hands. The whole leaf spread is round almost like a circle, but being cut in pieces for use, are near like unto a triangle: they lay them upon their heads as they travel, with the peaked end foremost, which is convenient to



Smith. sc 83 H. Holborn

The manner of their sheltering themselves from the rain, by the Talipat leaf.

London: Published May 20th 1818. by J. Mawman

make their way through the boughs and thickets. When the sun is vehement hot, they use them to shade themselves from the heat: soldiers all carry them; for, besides the benefit of keeping them dry in case it rain upon the march, these leaves make their tents to lie under in the night. A marvellous mercy which Almighty God hath bestowed upon this poor and naked people in this rainy country! one of these I brought with me into England: these leaves will grow on the top of the tree after the manner of a cocoa. It bears no kind of fruit until the last year of its life, and then it comes out on the top, and spreads abroad in great branches, all full first of yellow blossoms, most lovely and beautiful to behold, but smell very strong, and then it comes to a fruit round and very hard, as big as our largest cherries, but good only for seed to set: and though this tree bears but once, it makes amends, bearing such great abundance, that one tree will yield seed enough for a country. If these tress stand near any houses, the smell of the blossoms so much annoys them, that they, regarding not the seed, forthwith cut them down. This tree is within a pith only, which is very good to eat if they cut the tree down before it runs to seed: they beat it in mortars to flour, and bake cakes of it; which taste much like to white bread: it serves them instead of corn before their harvest be ripe.

The pith good to eat.

The kettule yields a delicious juice.

The next tree is the kettule: it groweth straight, but not so tall or big as the cocoa nut tree; the inside nothing but a white pith, as the former. It yieldeth a sort of liquor, which they call tellegie: it is rarely sweet and pleasing to the palate, and as wholesome to the body, but no stronger than water: they take it down from the tree twice, and from some good trees thrice, in a day. An ordinary tree will yield some three, some four gallons

in a day, some more and some less; the which liquor they boil, and make a kind of brown sugar, called jaggory; but if they will use their skill, they can make it as white as the second best sugar, and for any use: it is but little inferior to ordinary sugar. The manner how they take this liquor from the tree is thus:—when the tree is come to maturity, first out of the very top there cometh out a bud, which, if they let it grow, will bear a round fruit, which is the seed it yieldeth, but is only good to set for increase. This bud they cut and prepare, by putting to it several sorts of things, as salt, pepper, lemons, garlic, leaves, &c. which keeps it at a stand, and suffers it not to ripen. So they daily cut a thin slice off the end, and the liquor drops down in a pot, which they hang to catch it.

The skin bears strings as strong as wire.

It bears a leaf like to that of a betel nut tree, which is fastened to a skin as the betel nut leaves were, only this skin is hard and stubborn, like a piece of board: the skin is all full of strings as strong as wire; they use them to make ropes withal. As long as the tree is growing, the leaves shed; but when the tree is come to its full growth, they remain many years upon the tree before they fall; and when they fall, there are no new ones come again: the top bud, as it ripens and withers, other buds come out lower and lower every year till they come to the bottom of the boughs, and then it hath done bearing, and so may stand seven or ten years, and then dies.

The wood; its nature and use.

The wood of this tree is not above three inches thick, mighty strong and hard to cut in two, but very apt to split from top to bottom; a very heavy wood: they make pestles of it to beat their rice with, the colour black, but looks not like natural wood, but as if it were composed of divers pieces. The buds of this

tree, as also of the cocoa, and betel nut tree, are excellent in taste, resembling walnuts or almonds.

The cinnamon tree. I proceed to the third tree, which is the cinnamon, in their language corunda gauhah; it grows wild in the woods as other trees, and by them no more esteemed; it is most on the west side of the great river Mavela-gonga. It is much as plenty as hazel in England; in some places a great deal, in some little, and in some none at all. The trees are not very great, but sizeable: the cinnamon is the bark or rind, when it is on the tree (The bark.) it looks whitish; they scrape it and pull it off, and dry it in the sun: they take it only from off the smaller trees, although the bark of the greater is as sweet to the smell and as strong to the taste. The wood has no smell, in colour white, and soft like fir, (The wood.) which for any use they cut down, favouring them no more than other wild trees in the wood: the leaf much resembles the laurel, (The leaf.) both in colour and thickness; the difference is, whereas the laurel hath but one straight rib throughout, whereon the green spreads itself on each side; the cinnamon hath three by which the leaf stretches forth itself. When the young leaves come out, they look purely red, like scarlet; break or bruise them, and they will smell more like cloves than cinnamon. It bears a fruit, which is ripe in September, (The fruit.) much like an acorn, but smaller; it neither tastes nor smells much like the bark, but being boiled in water, it will yield an oil swimming on the top, which, when cold, is as hard as tallow, and as white, and smelleth excellently well. They use it for ointments for aches and pains, and to burn in their lamps to give light in their houses; but they make no candles of it, neither are candles used by any but the king.

Here are many sorts of trees that bear berries to make oil of, both in the woods and gardens; but not eatable, but used only for their lamps.

There are many other trees remarkable either for their strangeness, or use, or both. Of these I shall mention a few.

The orula, the fruit good for physic and dying.

The orula, a tree as big as an apple tree, bears a berry somewhat like an olive, but sharper at each end; its skin is of a reddish green colour, which covereth an hard stone. They make use of it for physic in purges, and also to dye black colour, which they do after this manner: they take the fruit and break it to pieces in mortars, and put it thus beaten into water; and after it has been soaking a day or two, it changeth the water, that it looks like beer, then they dip their cloth in it, or what they mean to dye, and dry it in the sun, and then they dip it in black mud, and so let it lie about an hour, then take it and wash it in water: now it will appear of a pale black: then being dry, they dip it again into the aforesaid dye, and it becomes a very good black.

This water will brighten rusty iron, and serve instead of ink.

Another use there is of this water. It is this: let any rusty iron lie a whole night in it, and it will become bright, and the water look black like ink, insomuch, that men may write with it. These trees grow but in some parts of the land, and nothing near so plentiful as cinnamon. The berries the druggists in the city there, do sell in their shops.

The dounekaia.

The dounekaia gauhah, a shrub, bears leaves as broad as two fingers, and six or eight feet long, on both sides of them set full of thorns, and a streak of thorns runs through the middle. These leaves they split to weave mats withal. The tree

bears a bud above a span long, tapering somewhat like a sugar-loaf. Leaves cover this bud, folding it about like the leaves of a cabbage; which leaves smell rarely sweet, and look of a lovely yellow colour like gold. This bud blows into divers bunches of flowers, spreading itself open like a plume of feathers, each flower whitish, but very small. The roots of this shrub they use for ropes, splitting them into thongs, and then making them into ropes.

The capita gauhah is a shrub never bigger than a man's arm. The Capita. The wood, rind, and leaves, have all a physical smell, and they do sometimes make use of it for physic. The leaf is of a bright green, roundish, rough, and as big as the palm of a hand. No sort of cattle will eat it; no, not the goats, that will sometimes brouze upon rank poison. There is abundance of these trees every where, and they grow in all countries but in Ouvah; and this is supposed to be the cause that the Ouvah cattle die when they are brought thence to any other country. They attribute it to the smell of this tree, of such a venomous nature it is to beasts; and, therefore, to destroy their fleas, or to keep their houses clear of them, they sweep them with brooms made of this shrub. It is excellent good for firing, and will burn when it is green. There are no other coals the goldsmiths use, but what are made of this wood.

Rattans grow in great abundance upon this island: they run Rattans. like honey-suckles, either upon the ground or up trees, as it happens, near twenty fathom in length. There is a kind of a shell or skin grows over the rattan, and encloseth it round, which serves for a case to cover and defend it when tender. This skin is so full of prickles and thorns, that you cannot touch it. As

the rattan grows longer and stronger, this case grows ripe and falls off, prickles and shell and all.

Its fruit. It bears fruit in clusters just like bunches of grapes, and as big. Every particular berry is covered with a husk like a gooseberry, which is soft, yellow, and scaly, like the scales of a fish, handsome to look upon. This husk being cracked and broken, within grows a plumb of a whitish colour; within the plumb a stone, having meat about it. The people gather and boil them to make sour pottage to quench the thirst.

Canes. Canes grow just like rattans, and bear a fruit like them; the difference only is, that the canes are larger.

The betel tree. The tree that bears the betel-leaf, which is so much loved and eaten in these parts, grows like ivy, twining about trees or poles which they stick in the ground for it to run up by; and as the betel grows, the poles grow also. The form of the leaf is longish, the end somewhat sharp, broadest next to the stalk, of a bright green, very smooth, just like a pepper leaf, only different in the colour, the pepper leaf being of a dark green. It bears a fruit just like long pepper, but not good for seed, for it falls off and rots upon the ground. But when they are minded to propagate it, they plant the sprigs, which will grow.

The bo-gauhah, or god-tree. I shall mention but one tree more as famous and highly set by as any of the rest, if not more, though it bear no fruit, the benefit consisting chiefly in the holiness of it. This tree they call Bogauhah; we, the god-tree. It is very great and spreading, the leaves always shake like an asp. They have a very great veneration for these trees, worshipping them, upon a tradition, that

the Buddou, a great god among them, when he was upon the earth, did use to sit under this kind of trees. There are many of these trees, which they plant all the land over, and have more care of than of any other. They pave round about them like a key; sweep often under them to keep them clean; they light lamps, and set up their images under them; and a stone table is placed under some of them to lay their sacrifices on. They set them every where in towns and highways, where any convenient places are; they serve also for shade to travellers. They will also set them in memorial of persons deceased, to wit, there where their bodies were burnt. It is held meritorious to plant them, which, they say, he that does shall die within a short while after, and go to heaven: but the oldest men only that are nearest death in the course of nature, do plant them, and none else; the younger sort desiring to live a little longer in this world before they go to the other.

CHAP. V.

Of their Roots, Plants, Herbs, and Flowers.

Roots for food. SOME of these are for food, and some for medicine: I begin with their roots, with which the jacks before mentioned, being many, and generally bearing well, are a great help towards the sustenance of this people; these by the Chingulays by a general name are called alloes, by the Portuguese and us inyames; they are of divers and sundry sorts, some they plant, and some grow wild; those that grow wild in the woods are as good, only they are more scarce and grow deeper, and so more difficult to be plucked up: it would be to no purpose to mention their particular names; I shall only speak a little in general of them: they serve both for food, and for carrees, that is, sauce, or for a relish to their rice: but they make many a meal of them alone to lengthen out their rice, or for want of it: and of these there is no want to those that will take pains but to set them, and cheap enough to those that will buy.

The manner of their growing. There are two sorts of these alloes: some require trees or sticks to run upon; others require neither; of the former sort, some will run up to the tops of very large trees, and spread out very full of branches, and bear great bunches of blossoms, but no use made of them; the leaves die every year, but the roots grow still, which some of them will do to a prodigious bigness within a year or two's time, becoming as big as a man's waist;

the fashion of them somewhat roundish, rugged, and uneven, and in divers odd shapes, like a log of cleft wood: they have a very good, savory, mellow taste.

Of those that do not run up on trees, there are likewise sundry sorts; they bear a long stalk and a broad leaf; the fashion of these roots are somewhat roundish, some grow out like a man's fingers, which they call angul-alloes, as much as to say finger-roots; some are of a white colour, some of a red.

Those that grow in the woods run deeper into the earth, they run up trees also: some bear blossoms somewhat like hops, and they may be as big as a man's arm.

For herbs to boil and eat with butter they have excellent good ones, and several sorts: some of them are six months growing to maturity, the stalk as high as a man can reach, and being boiled almost as good as asparagus; there are of this sort, some having leaves and stalks as red as blood, some green: some the leaves green, and the stalk very white. **Boiling herbs.**

They have several other sorts of fruits which they dress and eat with their rice, and taste very savoury, called carowela, wat-tacul, morango, cacorehouns, &c. the which I cannot compare to any things that grow here in England. **Fruits for sauce.**

They have of our English herbs and plants, colworts, carrots, radishes, fennel, balsam, spearmint, mustard; these, excepting the two last, are not the natural product of the land, but they are transplanted hither; by which I perceive all other European plants would grow there: they have also fern, Indian corn; seve- **European herbs and plants among them.**

ral sorts of beans as good as those in England; right cucumbers, calabasses, and several sorts of pumkins, &c. The Dutch on that Island in their gardens have lettuce, rosemary, sage, and all other herbs and salladings that we have in these countries.

Herbs for medicine. Nor are they worse supplied with medicinal herbs: the woods are their apothecaries shops, where with herbs, leaves, and the rinds of trees they make all their physic and plaisters, with which sometimes they will do notable cures. I will not here enter into a larger discourse of the medical virtues of their plants, &c. of which there are hundreds: only as a specimen thereof, and likewise of their skill to use them, I will relate a passage or two:—A neighbour of mine, a Chingulay, would undertake to cure a broken leg or arm by application of some herbs that grow in the woods, and that with that speed, that the broken bone, after it was set, should knit by the time one might boil a pot of rice and three carrees, that is about an hour and a half, or two hours; and I knew a man who told me he was thus cured. They will cure an imposthume in the throat with the rind of a tree called amaranga, (whereof I myself had the experience); by chewing it for a day or two after it is prepared, and swallowing the spittle; I was well in a day and a night, though before I was exceedingly ill, and could not swallow my victuals.

Their flowers. Of flowers they have great varieties, growing wild, for they plant them not; there are roses red and white, scented like ours; several sorts of sweet smelling flowers, which the young men and women gather to tie in their hairs to perfume them; they tie up their hair in a bunch behind, and enclose the flowers therein.

There is one flower deserves to be mentioned for the rarity and

use of it, they call it a sindric-mal; there are of them some of a murry colour, and some white; its nature is, to open about four o'clock in the evening, and so continueth open all night until the morning, when it closeth up itself till four o'clock again; some will transplant them out of the woods into the gardens to serve them instead of a clock, when it is cloudy that they cannot see the sun.

A flower that serves instead of a dial.

There is another white flower like our jasmine, well scented; they call them picha-mauls, which the king hath a parcel of brought to him every morning, wrapped in a white cloth, hanging upon a staff, and carried by people, whose peculiar office this is: all people that meet these flowers, out of respect to the king, for whose use they are, must turn out of the way; and so they must for all other things that go to the king, being wrapped up in white cloth; these officers hold land of the king for this service: their office is, also, to plant these flowers, which they usually do near the rivers where they most delight to grow: nay, they have power to plant them in any man's ground, and enclose that ground when they have done it for the sole use of their flowers to grow in, which inclosures they will keep up for several years, until the ground becomes so worn, that the flowers will thrive there no longer, and then the owners resume their own lands again.

Hop-mauls are flowers growing upon great trees, which bear nothing else, they are rarely sweet scented; this is the chief flower the young people use, and is of greatest value among them.

CHAP. VI.

Of their Beasts, Tame and Wild. Insects.

What beasts the country produceth.

HAVING spoken concerning the trees and plants of this Island, we will now go on to speak of the living creatures on it; viz. their beasts, insects, birds, fish, serpents, &c. useful or noxious; and we begin first with their beasts:—they have cows, buffaloes, hogs, goats, deer, hares, dogs, jackals, apes, tigers, bears, elephants, and other wild beasts; lions, wolves, horses, asses, and sheep, thay have none; deer are in great abundance in the woods, and of several sorts, from the largeness of a cow or buffalo, to the smallness of a hare; for here is a creature in this land no bigger, but in every part rightly resembleth a deer, it is called meminna, of colour grey, with white spots, and good meat.

Deer no bigger than hares.

Other creatures rare in their kind.

Here are also wild buffaloes; also a sort of beast they call gauvera, so much resembling a bull, that I think it one of that kind; his back stands up with a sharp ridge; all his four feet white up half his legs; I never saw but one, which was kept among the king's creatures; here was a black tygre catched and brought to the king, and afterwards a deer, milk white; both which he very much esteemed: there being no more either before or since ever heard of in that land.

The way how a wild deer was caught.

If any desire to know how this white deer was caught, it was thus:—this deer was observed to come on evenings with the rest

of the herd to a great pond to drink; the people that were ordered to catch this deer, fenced the pond round and plain about it with high stakes, leaving only one wide gap; the men after this done lay in ambush, each with his bundle of stakes ready cut: in the evening the deer came with the rest of the herd to drink according to their want: as soon as they were entered within the stakes, the men in ambush fell to their work, which was to fence in the gap left, which, there being little less than a thousand men, they soon did; and so all the herd were easily caught, and this among the rest.

Of their elephants

The king hath also an elephant, spotted or speckled all the body over, which was lately caught; and though he hath many and very stately elephants, and many more as he pleases, yet he prefers this before them all; and since I am fallen upon discourse of the elephant, the creature that this country is famed for above any in India, I will detain myself a little longer upon it.

The way of catching elephants.

I will first relate the manner of taking them, and afterwards their sagacity, with other things that occur to my memory concerning them; this beast, though he be so big and wise, yet he is easily caught; when the king commands to catch elephants, after they have found them they like, that is such as have teeth: for though there be many in the woods, yet but few have teeth, and they males only: unto these they drive some she-elephants, which they bring with them for the purpose; which, when once the males have got a sight of, they will never leave, but follow them wheresoever they go; and the females are so used to it, that they will do whatsoever is wished, either by a word or a beck their keepers bid them; and so they delude them along through towns and

countries, through the streets of the city, even to the very gates of the king's palace; where sometimes they seize upon them by snares, and sometimes, by driving them into a kind of pound, they catch them. After they have brought the elephant which is not yet caught, together with the she, into the king's presence, if it likes him not, he commands to let him go: if it does, he appoints him some certain place near unto the city, where they are to drive him with the females: for without them it is not possible to make him stay; and to keep him in that place until the king's further order and pleasure is to catch him, which perhaps may not be in two or three or four years; all which time there are great men with soldiers appointed to watch there about him: and if he should chance to stray a little out of his bounds set by the king, immediately they bring him back, fearing the king's displeasure, which is no less than death itself: here those elephants do, and may do, great damage to the country, by eating up their corn, and trampling it with their broad feet, and throwing down their cocoa-nut trees, and oftentimes their houses too, and they may not resist them: it is thought this is done by the king to punish them that lie under his displeasure; and if you ask what becomes of these elephants at last—sometimes after they have thus kept watch over them two or three years, and destroyed the country in this manner, the king will send order to carry them into the woods, and let them go free: for he caught them not for any use or benefit he hath by them, but only for his recreation and pastime.

The understanding of elephants. Their nature.

As he is the greatest in body, so in understanding also. For he will do any thing that his keeper bids him, which is possible for a beast not having hands to do. And as the Chingulays report, they bear the greatest love to their young of all irrational creatures; for the shes are alike tender of any ones young ones

as of their own: where there are many she-elephants together, the young ones go and suck of any, as well as of their mothers and if a young one be in distress, and should cry out, they will all in general run to the help and aid thereof; and if they be going over a river, as here be some somewhat broad, and the streams run very swift, they will all with their trunks assist and help to convey the young ones over. They take great delight to lie and tumble in the water, and will swim excellently well. Their teeth they never shed: neither will they ever breed tame ones with tame ones; but to ease themselves of the trouble to bring them meat, they will tie their two fore-feet together, and put them into the woods, where meeting with the wild ones, they conceive, and go one year with young.

The damage they do.

It is their constant practice to shove down with their heads great trees, which they love to eat, when they be too high, and they cannot otherwise reach the boughs. Wild ones will run much faster than a man, but tame ones not. The people stand in fear of them, and oftentimes are killed by them. They do them also great damage in their grounds by night, coming into their fields and eating up their corn, and likewise their cocoa-nut trees, &c. So that in towns near unto the woods, where are plenty of them, the people are forced to watch their corn all night, and also their outyards and plantations; into which being once entered, with eating and trampling they will do much harm before they can get them out: who oftentimes when by lighting of torches, and hollowing, they will not go out, take their bows and go and shoot them, but not without some hazard, for sometimes the elephant runs upon them and kills them: for fear of which they will not adventure unless there be trees, about which they may dodge to defend themselves. And although here be

both bears and tigers in these woods, yet they are not so fierce, as commonly to assault people: travellers and way-faring men go more in fear of elephants than of any other beasts.

Serve the king for executing malefactors.

The king makes use of them for executioners: they will run their teeth through the body, and then tear it in pieces, and throw it limb from limb. They have sharp iron with a socket with three edges, which they put on their teeth at such times; for the elephants that are kept have all the ends of their teeth cut to make them grow the better, and they do grow out again.

Their diseases.

At some uncertain seasons the males have an infirmity come on them, that they will be stark mad, so that none can rule them. Many times it so comes to pass that they with their keepers on their backs, run raging until they throw them down and kill them: but commonly there is notice of it before, by an oil that will run out of their cheeks, which, when that appears, immediately they chain them fast to great trees by the legs. For this infirmity they use no medicine, neither is he sick; but the females are never subject to this.

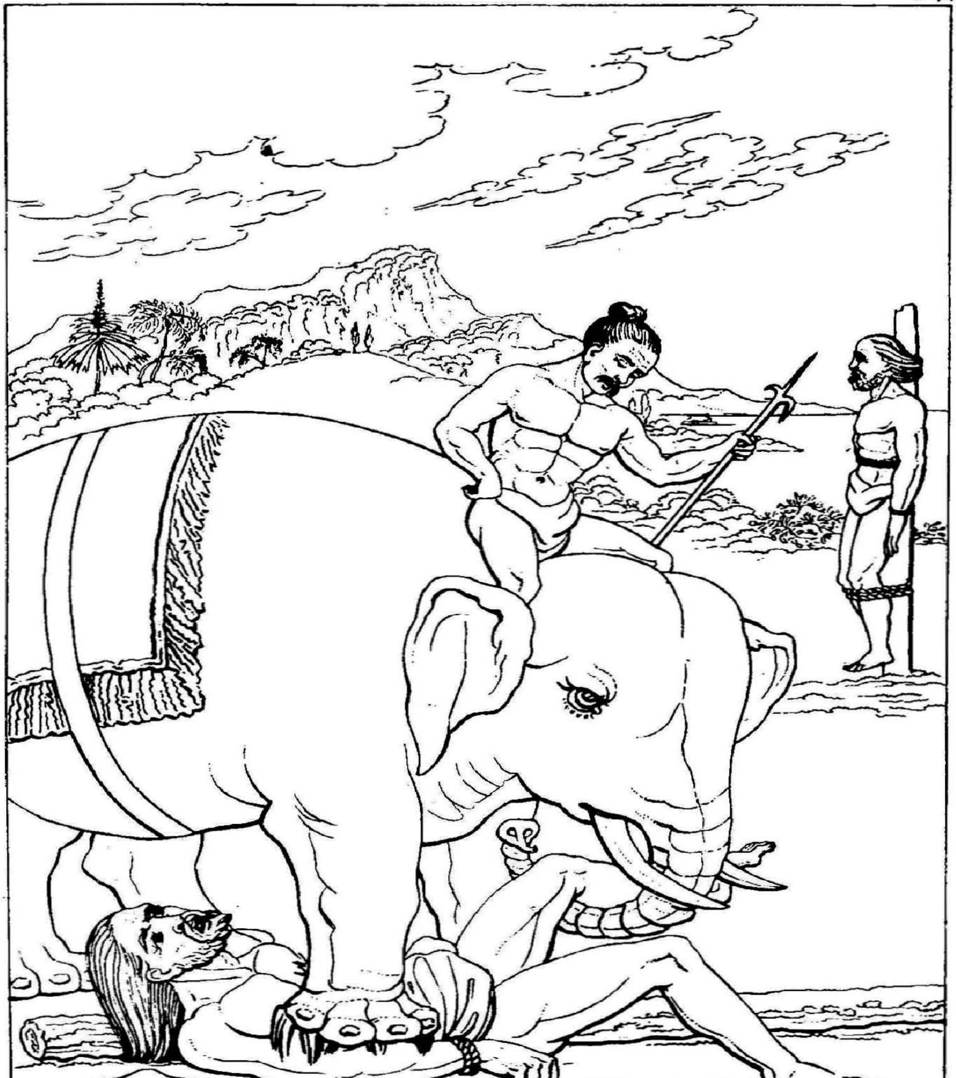
The sport they make.

The keepers of the king's elephants sometimes make a sport with them after this manner. They will command an elephant to take up water which he does, and stands with it in his trunk, till they command him to squirt it out at some body; which he immediately will do, it may be a whole paleful together, and with such a force, that a man can hardly stand against it.

Ants of divers sorts.

There are ants of several sorts, and some worthy our remark.

First of all, there are coumbias, a sort of small reddish ants like ours in England.



Smith . sc. 85 H. Holborn

An Execution by an Elephant

London: Published by J. Mawman. May 10th 1818

Secondly, the tale-coumbias, as small as the former, but blackish. These usually live in hollow trees or rotten wood, and will sting most terribly.

Thirdly, the dimbios, great red ants. These make their nests upon the boughs of great trees, bringing the leaves together in clusters, it may be as big as a man's head; in which they lay their eggs nd breed. There will be oftentimes many nests of these upon one tree, insomuch that the people are afraid to go up to gather the fruits, lest they should be stung by them.

A fourth sort of ants are those they call coura-atch. They are great and black, living in the ground. Their daily practice is to bring up dirt out of the ground, making great hollow holes in the earth, somewhat resembling cony-burrows; only these are less, and run straight downwards for some way, and then turn away into divers paths under ground. In many places of the land there are so many of these holes, that cattle are ready to break their legs as they go. These do not sting.

A fifth is the coddia. This ant is of an excellent bright black, and as large as any of the former. They dwell always in the ground; and their usual practice is, to be travelling in great multitudes, but I do not know where they are going, nor what their business is; but they pass, and repass some forwards and some backwards in great haste, seemingly as full of employment as people that pass along the streets. These ants will bite desperately, as bad as if a man were burnt with a coal of fire. But they are of a noble nature: for they will not begin; and you may stand by them, if you do not tread upon them nor disturb them. The reason of their bite is thus terribly painful, is this;

How these coddia's come to sting so terribly.

formerly these ants went to ask a wife of the Noya, a venomous and noble kind of snake; and because they had such a high spirit to dare to offer to be related to such a generous creature, they had this virtue bestowed upon them, that they should sting after this manner. And if they had obtained a wife of the Noya, they would have had the privilege to have stung full as bad as he. This is a current fable among the Chingulays: though undoubtedly they chiefly regard the wisdom that is concealed under this, and the rest of their fables.

These ants a very mischievous sort.

There is a sixth sort called vaeos. These are more numerous than any of the former. All the whole earth doth swarm with them. They are of a middle size, between the greatest and the least, the hinder part white, and the head red. They eat and devour all that they can come at; as besides food, cloth, wood, thatch of houses, and every thing excepting iron and stone. So that the people cannot set any thing upon the ground within their houses for them. They creep up the walls of their houses and build an arch made of dirt over themselves all the way as they climb, be it never so high. And if this arch or vault chance to be broken, they all, how high soever they were, come back again to mend up the breach, which being finished they proceed forwards again, eating every thing they come at in their way. This vermin do exceedingly annoy the Chingulays, insomuch that they are continually looking upon any thing they value, to see if any of these vaeos have been at it; which they may easily perceive by this case of dirt, which they cannot go up any where without building as they go. And wheresoever this is seen, no doubt the ants are there.

The curious buildings of the Vaeos.

In places where there are no houses, and they can eat nothing belonging to the people, they will raise great hills like buts, some four or five or six feet high; which are so hard and strong, that it would be work enough to dig them down with pick-axes. These humbosses are built with a pure refined clay by the ingenious builders. The people use this clay to make their earthen gods of, because it is so pure and fine.

The manner of their death.

This sort of creatures as they increase in multitudes, so they die in multitudes also: for when they come to maturity they have wings, and in the evening, after the going down of the sun, (never before) all these that are fledged and ripe will issue forth in such vast numbers, that they do almost darken the sky, flying to such a height as they go out of sight, and so keep flying till they fall down dead at last upon the earth. The birds that tarry up late, and are not yet gone to roost, fly among them, and make good suppers of them.

The people in this land never feed their poultry: but they feed upon these ants, which, by scraping among the leaves and dirt, they can never want; and they delight in them above rice or any thing else. Besides all these ants already mentioned, there are divers other distinct sorts of them.

Bees of several kinds.

But we will proceed to a more beneficial insect, the bee; of which there be three sorts. The first are the meemasses, which are the right English bees: they build in hollow trees, or hollow holes in the ground, which the vaeos have made; into which holes the men blow with their mouths, and the bees presently fly out; and then they put in their hands and pull out the combs, which they put in pots or vessels, and carry

away. They are not afraid of their stinging in the least, nor do they arm themselves with any clothes against them.

Bees that build on trees like birds.

The second are the bamburos, larger and of a brighter colour than our English bees; their honey is thin, like water, comparatively. They make their combs upon limbs of trees, open and visible to the eye, generally of a great height. At time of year, whole towns, forty or fifty in company together, will go out into the woods, and gather this honey, and come home laden with it for their use.

The third sort they call connameia, signifying a blind bee. They are small like a fly, and black; they build in hollow trees; and their honey somewhat tarrish: and they make such small quantities of it, that the people little regard it. The boys will sometimes cut a hole and take it out.

The people eat the bees as well as their honey.

When they meet with any swarms of bees hanging on any tree, they will hold torches under to make them drop; and so catch them and carry them home; which they boil and eat, and esteem excellent food.

Leaches that lie in the grass, and creep on travellers legs.

There is a sort of leaches of the nature of ours, only differing in colour and bigness; for they are of a dark reddish colour like the skin of bacon, and as big as a goose quill; in length, some two or three inches. At first, when they are young, they are no bigger than a horse hair, so that they can scarce be seen. In dry weather none of them appear, but immediately upon the fall of rains, the grass and woods are full of them. These leaches seize upon the legs of travellers, who, going barefoot, according to the custom of that land have them hanging upon their legs in multitudes, which suck their blood till

A Wanderow

Smith, sc. 64 H. Holborn

A Rillow

London: Published May 10th 1816. by J. Mawman

their bellies are full; and then drop off. They come in such quantities, that the people cannot pull them off so fast as they crawl on: the blood runs pouring down their legs all the way they go, and it is no little smart neither; so that they would willingly be without them if they could, especially those that have sores on their legs; for they all gather to the sore.

The remedies they use against them.

Some, therefore, will tie a piece of lemon and salt in a rag, and fasten it unto a stick, and ever and anon strike it upon their legs to make the leaches drop off: others will scrape them off with a reed, cut flat and sharp in the fashion of a knife; but this is so troublesome, and they come on again so fast and so numerous, that it is not worth their while: and generally they suffer them to bite, and remain on their legs during their journey; and they do the more patiently permit them, because it is so wholesome for them. When they come to their journey's end, they rub all their legs with ashes, and so clear themselves of them at once; but still the blood will remain dropping a great while after. But they are most annoyed by them when they go out to stool at night, being small and of the colour of their bodies, so that they can neither see nor feel to pull them off; and these, though they be in such quantities in some of these countries, yet in others there are none at all, nor ever were known to have been. But besides these there are water leaches the same with ours.

Apes and monkeys of divers kinds

Monkeys, of which there are abundance in the woods, and of divers sorts; some so large as our English spaniel dogs, of a darkish grey colour, and black faces, with great white beards round from ear to ear, which makes them shew just like old men. There is another sort just of the same bigness, but differ in co-

lour, being milk-white both in body and face, having great beards like the others; of this sort of white ones there is not such plenty: but both these sorts do but little mischief, keeping in the woods, eating only leaves and buds of trees; but when they are caught they will eat any thing: this sort they call, in their language, wanderows. There is yet another sort of apes, of which there is great abundance, who, coming with such multitudes, do a great deal of mischief to the corn that groweth in the woods, so that they are fain all the day long to keep watch to scare them out: and so soon as they are gone to fray them away at one end of the field, others, who wait for such an opportunity, come skipping in at the other; and, before they can turn, will fill both bellies and hands full, to carry away with them; and to stand all round to guard their fields is more than they can do. This sort of monkeys have no beards, white faces, and long hair on the top of their heads, which parteth and hangeth down like a man's. These are so impudent that they will come into the gardens and eat such fruit as grows there; they call these rillowes: the flesh of all these sorts of apes they account good to eat. There are several sorts of squirrels also, which they do eat when they can catch them.

Before I make an end of my discourse of their beasts, it may be worth while to relate the ways they use to catch them; at which they are very crafty.

How they catch wild beasts.

For the catching of deer, or other wild beasts, they have this ingenious device: in dark moons when there are drisling rains, they go about this design: they have a basket made with canes, somewhat like unto a funnel, in which they put a potsheard with fire in it, together with a certain wood which they have growing there, full of sap like pitch, and that will burn

like a pitch-barrel. This being kindled in the potsheard flames, gives an exceeding light. They carry it upon their heads with the flame foremost; the basket hiding him that is under it, and those that come behind it. In their hands they carry three or four small bells, which they tingle as they go, that the noise of their steps should not be heard. Behind the man that carries the light, go men with bows and arrows; and so they go walking along the plains, and by the pond sides, where they think the deer will come out to feed; which, when they see the light, stand still and stare upon it, seeing only the light, and hearing nothing but the tingling of the bells.

The eyes of the deer, or other cattle, first appear to them glistering like stars of light or diamonds; and by their long experience they will distinguish one beast from another by their eyes. All creatures, as deer, hares, elephants, bears, &c. excepting only wild hogs, will stand still, wondering at this strange sight, till the people come as near as they do desire, and so let fly their arrows upon them: and by this means they seldom go but they catch something. The blades of their hunting arrows are at least a foot, or a foot and a half long; and the length of the staff of their arrows is a rian, that is, about two cubits.

Again, they will observe where a deer's haunt is, to break over their hedges into the corn grounds: there they will set a sharp pole, like a spear, full against the haunt; so that the deer, when she leaps over, thrusts herself upon the point of it. If a tiger chance to come into their grounds and kill a cow, they will take notice of the place through which he passed, and set a cross bow there ready charged: the tiger coming that way again, touches something that is fastened to the trigger of the cross bow, and so it discharges upon him.

How they take the wild boar.

The wild hog is of all other the hardest to be caught; and it is dangerous to attempt the catching of him. For the people make valour to consist in three things: one is to fight against the enemy; another, to hunt the elephant; and the third to catch hogs. Yet sometimes by their art they entrap them; and that they do after this manner: they dig a hole in the earth, of a convenient depth, and fix divers sharp stakes in the bottom of it; then they cover it over lightly with earth and leaves, and plant thereupon roots which the hog loves, as potatoes, or such like which will grow there; and the pit remains, it may be sometimes months or half a year, till at last a hog comes, and while he is rooting, his weight betrays him, and in he falls.

Again, sometimes they will set a falling trap of an exceeding weight, and under it plant roots, and such like things, which the hog delights in. There are contrivances under the weeds and leaves; which, when he goes to eat, by touching or treading upon something fastened to the trap, it falls down upon him: these are made so artificially, that people sometimes have been caught and destroyed by them. Once such a trap, in my remembrance, fell upon three women and killed them; who, having been stealing cotton in a plantation, and fearing to be caught, went to creep out at a hole where this trap stood.

And thus I have related some of their ways of taking wild cattle: they are good also at catching birds and vermin; in fine, they are the most cunning people in the world for such kind of traps and gins; and all of them they make only by the help of their knives, with green sticks and withs that grow in the woods. And so much of their beasts.

CHAP. VII.

Of their Birds, Fish, Serpents, and Commodities.

IN the next place I will entertain you with some relation of the other living creatures among them. I begin with their birds. In that land there are crows, sparrows, tom-tits, snipes, just like those in England, wood pigeons also, but not great flocks of any sorts, as we have, only of crows and pigeons. I have seen there birds just like woodcocks and partridges, but they are scarce; great many wild peacocks, small green parrots, but not very good to talk. But here is another bird, in their language called mal-cowda, which, with teaching, will speak excellently well: it is black, with yellow gills, about the bigness of a blackbird: and another sort there is, of the same bigness, called cau-cowda, yellow like gold, very beautiful to the eye, which also might be taught to speak.

Their birds.

Such as will be taught to speak.

Here are other sorts of small birds, not much bigger than a sparrow, very lovely to look on, but I think good for nothing else: some being in colour white like snow, and their tail about one foot in length, and their heads black like jet, with a tuft like a plume of feathers standing upright thereon. There are others of the same sort, only differing in colour, being reddish, like a ripe orange, and on the head a plume of black feathers standing up. I suppose one may be the cock, and the other the hen.

Such as are beautiful for colour.

A strange bird.

Here is a sort of bird they call carlo, which never lighteth on the ground, but always sits on very high trees; he is as big as a swan, the colour black, the legs very short, the head monstrous, his bill very long, a little rounding like a hawk's, and white on each side of the head, like ears; on the top of the crown groweth out a white thing, something like to the comb of a cock; commonly they keep four or five of them together, and always are hopping from bough to bough; they are seldem silent, but continually make a roaring noise, somewhat like the quacking of a duck, that they may be heard at least a mile off; the reason they thus cry, the Chingulays say, is for rain, that they may drink. The bodies of these fowls are good to eat.

Water fowls resembling ducks and swans.

Here is a sort of bird very much resembling a duck, but not very plentiful; and another sort of fowl as big as a duck, coal black, which liveth altogether upon fish. It is admirable to see how long they will remain under water, and at what a distance they will rise again. Besides these, there are many other kinds of birds, much larger than swans, which keep about the ponds and marshes to catch fish, but the people eat them not: Nature hath endowed them with an admirable understanding; they are not to be catched by the alligators, though there be many of them in those waters.

Peacocks.

The peacocks in rainy weather are sometimes hunted and caught by dogs; for their feathers being wet they are incapable of flying far.

The king keeps fowl.

The king hath geese, ducks, turkeys, pigeons, which he keeps tame; but none else may. Turkeys he delights not in, because they change the colour of their heads: neither doth he kill any

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Their manner of Fishing

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of these to eat, nor any other creature of what sort soever, and he hath many that he keeps tame.

They have no want of fish, and those good ones too. All little rivers and streams running through the valleys are full of small fish, but the boys and others wanting something to eat with their rice, do continually catch them before they come to maturity: nay, all their ponds are full of them, which, in dry weather drying up, the people catch multitudes of them in this manner: —they have a kind of basket made of small sticks, so close that the fish cannot get through; it is broad at bottom, and narrow at top, like a funnel, the hole big enough for a man to thrust his arm in, wide at the mouth about two or three feet; these baskets they jobb down, and the ends stick in the mud, which often happen upon a fish; when they do, they feel it by the fish beating itself against the sides; then they put in their hands and take them out, and rieve a rattan through their gills, and so let them drag after them. One end of this rattan is stuck in the fisher's girdle, and the other knotted, that the fish should not slip off: which, when it is full, he discharges himself of them by carrying them ashore. Nay, every ditch and little plash of water but ancle deep hath fish in it.

Their fish.

How they catch them in ponds.

The great river, Mavela-gonga abounds exceedingly with them: some of them as big as salmons; but the people have little understanding in the way of taking them. In very dry weather, they stretch a with over the river, which they hang full of boughs of trees to scare the fish. This with thus hung they drag down with the stream, and to leeward they place fish-pots between the rocks, and so drive the fish into them. Nets or other ways they have few or none.

How they catch fish in the river.

Fish kept and fed for the king's pleasure.

At a passage-place, near to the city of Candy, the fish formerly have been nourished and fed by the king's order, to keep them there for his majesty's pleasure; whither, having used to be thus provided for, notwithstanding floods and strong streams, they will still resort, and are so tame, that I have seen them eat out of men's hands; but death it is to them that presume to catch them. The people passing over here will commonly feed them with some of their rice, accounting it a piece of charity so to do, and pleasure to see them eat it. In many other places also there are fish thus fed and kept only for the king's recreation; for he will never let any be caught for his use.

Serpents. The pimberah of a prodigious bigness.

Of serpents there are these sorts. The pimberah, the body whereof is as big as a man's middle, and of a length proportionable. It is not swift, but by subtilty will catch his prey, which are deer or other cattle. He lies in the path where the deer use to pass, and as they go, he clasps hold of them by a kind of peg that grows in his tail, with which he strikes them. He will swallow a roebuck whole, horns and all; so that it happens sometimes that the horns run through his belly and kill him. A stag was caught by one of these pimberahs, which seized him by the buttock, and held him so fast, that he could not get away, but ran a few steps this way and that way. An Indian seeing the stag run thus, supposed him in a snare, and having a gun shot him, at which he gave so strong a jerk, that it pulled the serpent's head off, while his tail was encompassing a tree to hold the stag the better.

The polonga.

There is another venomous snake called polongo, the most venomous of all, that kills cattle. Two sorts of them I have

seen, the one green, the other of a reddish grey, full of white rings along the sides, and about five or six feet long.

Another poisonous snake there is, called noya, of a greyish colour, about four feet long. This will stand with half his body upright two or three hours together, and spread his head broad open, where there appears like as it were a pair of spectacles painted on it. The Indians call this noy-rogerati, that is, a king's snake, that will do no harm. But if the polonga and the noya meet together, they cease not fighting till one hath killed the other. The noya.

The reason and original of this fatal enmity between these two serpents, is this, according to a fable among the Chingulays. These two chanced to meet in a dry season, when water was scarce. The polonga, being almost famished for thirst, asked the noya, where he might go to find a little water: the noya a little before had met with a bowl of water, in which a child lay playing; as it is usual among this people to wash their children in a bowl of water, and there leave them to tumble and play in it. Here the noya quenched his thirst; but, as he was drinking, the child that lay in the bowl, out of his innocency and play, hit him on the head with his hand, which the noya made no matter of, but bare patiently, knowing it was not done out of any malice; and having drank as much as sufficed him, went away without doing the child any harm. The fable of the noya and polonga.

Being minded to direct the polonga to this bowl, but desirous withal to preserve the child, he told him, that he knew of water, but that he was such a surly hasty creature, that he was fearful

to let him know where it was, lest he might do some mischief. Making him therefore promise that he would not, he then told him, that at such a place there was a bowl of water with a child playing in it, and that probably the child might, as he was tumbling, give him a pat on the head, as he had done to him before, but charged him nevertheless not to hurt the child; which the polonga, having promised, went his way towards the water as the noya had directed him. The noya, knowing his touchy disposition, went after him, fearing he might do the child a mischief, and that thereby he himself might be deprived of the like benefit afterwards. It fell out as he feared. For as the polonga drank, the child patted him on the head, and he in his hasty humour bit him on the hand and killed him. The noya seeing this, was resolved to be revenged, and so reproaching him for his baseness, fought him so long till he had killed him, and after that devoured him; which to this day they ever do, always fight when they meet, and the conqueror eats the body of the vanquished. Hence the proverb among the Chingulays, when they see two men irreconcileable, they compare them to the polonga and noya, and say, noya polonga waghe, like a noya and polonga.

The Carowala. There is the carowala, about two feet in length, very poisonous, that lurks in the holes and thatch of houses. The cats will seize these and kill and eat them.

Gerende. Other snakes there are, called gerende, whereof there are many, but not venomous. Of the former there are but a few in comparison. These last mentioned, the greatest mischief they do is to destroy young birds and eggs, and young hares. Rab-

bits cannot be kept here to run wild, because of these and other vermin, such as polecats, ferrets, weazels, &c.

Hickanella, much like a lizard, venomous, but seldom bites unless provoked; these lie in the thatch of the houses. Hickanella.

There is a spider, called democulo, very long, black, and hairy, speckled and glistering. Its body is as big as a man's fist, with feet proportionable. These are very poisonous; and they keep in hollow trees and holes. Men bitten with them will not die, but the pain will for some time put them out of their senses. A great spider.

Cattle are often bit by some of these snakes, and as often found dead of them, though not eaten. Treading upon them sleeping, or the like, may be the cause of it. When the people are bitten by any of these, they are cured by charms and medicines, if taken and applied in time

There are also a sort of water snakes they call duberia, but harmless.

Alligators may be reduced hither; there be many of them. Of which we have said somewhat before.

There is a creature here called kobberaguion, resembling an alligator. The biggest may be five or six feet long, speckled black and white. He lives most upon the land, but will take the water and dive under it: hath a long blue forked tongue like a sting, which he puts forth and hisseth and gapeth, but doth not bite nor sting, though the appearance of him would scare Kobberaguion, a creature like an alligator.

those that knew not what he was. He is not afraid of people, but will lie gaping and hissing at them in the way, and will scarce stir out of it. He will come and eat carrion with the dogs and jackals, and will not be scared away by them; but if they come near to bark or snap at him, with his tail, which is about an ell long, like a whip, he will so lash them, that they will run away and howl. This creature is not eatable.

Tolla guion.

But there is the tolla guion, very like the former, which is eaten, and reckoned excellent meat. The Chingulays say it is the best sort of flesh; and, for this reason, that if you eat other flesh at the same time you eat of this, and have occasion to vomit, you will never vomit out this though you vomit all the other. This creature eats not carrion, but only leaves and herbs; is less of size than the kobbera-guion, and blackish; lives in hollow trees and holes in the humbosses; and I suppose is the same with that which in the West Indies they call the guiana.

The people eat rats.

This country has its vermin also. They have a sort of rats, they call musk-rats, because they smell strong of musk. These the inhabitants do not eat of, but of all other sort of rats they do.

Before I conclude my discourse of the growth and product of this country, it will not be improper to reduce under this head its precious stones, minerals, and other commodities. Of which I shall briefly speak, and so make an end of this first part.

Precious stones.

In this island are several sorts of precious stones, which the king, for his part, has enough, and so careth not to have more

discovery made. For in certain places, where they are known to be, are sharp poles set up fixed in the ground, signifying, that none, upon pain of being stuck and impaled upon those poles, presume so much as to go that way. Also there are certain rivers, out of which, it is generally reported, they do take rubies and sapphires for the king's use, and cat's eyes; and I have seen several pretty coloured stones, some as big as cherry-stones, some as buttons, and transparent, but understood not what they were. Rubies and sapphires I myself have seen here.

Here is iron and crystal in great plenty. Salt-petre they can make. Brimstone, some say, is here, but the king will not have it discovered. Steel they can make of their iron. Ebony in great abundance, with choice of tall and large timber. Cardamums, jaggory, rack, oil, black lead, turmeric, salt, rice, betel-nuts, musk, wax, pepper; which last grows here very well, and might be in great plenty if it had a vend; and the peculiar commodity of the island, cinnamon. Wild cattle and wild honey in great plenty in the woods; it lies in holes or hollow trees, free for any that will take the pains to get it. Elephant's teeth and cotton; of which there is good plenty growing in their own grounds, sufficient to make them good and strong cloth for their own use, and also to sell to the people of the Uplands, where cotton is not so plenty. All these things the land affords, and it might do it in much greater quantity if the people were but laborious and industrious: but that they are not, for the Chingulays are naturally a people given to sloth and laziness; if they can but any ways live, they abhor to work; only what their necessities force them to do, they do, that is, to get food and raiment. Yet in this I must a little vindicate them; for

Minerals and other commodities.

The people discouraged from industry by the tyranny they are under.

what indeed should they do with more than food and raiment, seeing, as their estates increase, so do their taxes also? And although the people be generally covetous, spending but little, scraping together what they can, yet such is the government they are under, that they are afraid to be known to have any thing, lest it be taken away from them. Neither have they any encouragement for their industry, having no vend by traffic and commerce for what they have got.

PART II.

CHAP. I.

Of the present King of Candy.

HITHERTO I have treated of the country, with the provisions and wealth of it; our next discourse shall be of the political government there exercised. And here order will lead us to speak first of the king, and matters relating to him. The government of this island.

Anciently this country consisted of nine kingdoms, all which had their several kings; but now, by the vicissitude of times and things, they are all reduced under one king, who is an absolute tyrant, and rules the most arbitrarily of any king in the world. We will first speak of him as to his personal capacity, and next as to his political.

In his personal capacity are to be considered his birth and parentage, his person, his relations, his state, his manners, his pleasures and recreations, his religion.

The king's lineage.

Radga-Singa is his name, which signifies a lion-king. He is not of the right descent of the royal blood; for the former king deceased, leaving his queen a widow, and two young princes, which he had issue by her. She was a Christian, having been baptized by the Portugueze, and named Dona Catharina. She afterwards married to the chief-priest, whom, in their language, they call tirinanxy; and by him had this son, the present king. The tirinanx, his father, reigned and ruled the land during the minority of the young princes: but being aged he divided the country between the three princes by lot, intending Conde Uda, which is the best part of the land, for his own son, Radga-Singa; which was obtained by this device. The names of the three kingdoms, being written on three papers, were put into a pot, and one was appointed, who knew the matter, to take them out, and deliver them one to each, beginning with the eldest, craftily delivering that which had Conde Uda written in it unto Radga Singa; and so it came to pass according to the old king's determination. All these three, in the beginning of their reigns, joined together against the Portugueze, but soon after fell out amongst themselves, and this king, in the end, prevailed, and got all the country. Danna Polla Rodgerah, the youngest, king of Mautoly, being overthrown, fled down to the Portugueze to Columba, who sent him to Goa, where he died. The other, named Comaure-Singa, king of Ouvah, died in Candy.

His person, mien, and habit.

As to the person of the present king. He is not tall, but very well set, nor of the clearest colour of their complexion, but somewhat of the blackest; great rolling eyes, turning them and looking every way, always moving them; a brisk bold look, a great swelling belly, and very lively in his actions and be-

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Rajah Singah, the King of Ceylon.

London Published May [illegible] by J. Mawman

haviour; somewhat bald, not having much hair upon his head, and that grey; a large comely beard, with great whiskers; in conclusion, a very comely man. He bears his years well, being between seventy and eighty years of age; and though an old man, yet appears not to be like one neither in countenance nor action. His apparel is very strange and wonderful, not after his own country fashion, or any other, being made after his own invention. On his head he wears a cap with four corners like a Jesuit's, three tier high, and a feather standing upright before, like that in the head of a fore-horse in a team; a long band hanging down his back in the Portugueze fashion; his doublet after so strange a shape that I cannot well describe it, the body of one, and the sleeves of another; he wears long breeches to his ancles, shoes, and stockings. He doth not always keep to one fashion, but changes as his fancy leads him; but always when he comes abroad, his sword hangs by his side in a belt over his shoulder; which no Chingulays dare wear, only white men may: a gold hilt, and scabbard most of beaten gold. Commonly he holdeth in his hand a small cane, painted of divers colours, and towards the lower end set round about with such stones as he hath and pleaseth, with a head of gold.

His right and lawful queen, who was a Malabar, brought from the coast, is still living, but hath not been with him, as is known, this twenty years, remaining in the city of Candy, where he left her: she wants, indeed, neither maintenance nor attendance, but never comes out of the palace. Several noblemen's daughters hold land for this service, viz. to come to her court in their turns to wait upon her majesty. She bear him a prince, but what became of him shall hereafter be shewn. He had also a daughter by her, she came also in her youth

His queen and children.

to a piteous and unfortunate death, as I shall relate in its place.

His palace; situation and description of it.

He keeps his court at Digligy-neur, whither he fled in a rebellion against him. His palace stands adjoining to a great hill, which was before-mentioned: near unto that part of the hill next abutting upon his court, none dares presume to set his foot, that being for his safeguard to fly unto in time of need. The palace is walled about with a clay wall, and thatched, to prevent the clay being melted by the rains, which are great and violent. Within this wall it is all full of houses, most of which are low and thatched; but some are two stories high, and tiled very handsomely, with open galleries for air, railed about with turned banisters, one ebony, and one painted, but not much prospect, standing between two hills; and indeed the king lives there not so much for pleasure as security. The palace itself hath many large and stately gates two leaved; these gates, with their posts, excellently carved; the iron-work thereunto belonging, as bolts and locks, all rarely engraven. The windows inlaid with silver plates and ebony. On the top of the houses of his palace and treasury stand earthern pots at each corner, which are for ornament; or, which is a newer fashion, something made of earth resembling flowers and brambles; and no houses beside, except temples, may have these placed upon them. The contrivance of his palace is, as I may say, like Woodstock bower, with many turnings and windings, and doors, he himself having ordered and contrived all these buildings, and the manner of them. At all the doors and passages stand watches; and they who thus give attendance are not to pass without special order from one place to another, but are to remain in that place, or at that gate where the king hath ap-

pointed them. By means of these contrivances it is not easy to know in what part or place his person is, neither doth he care they should.

He has strong watches night and day about his court; and they are his grandees, who themselves in person watch in certain places where the king himself appoints them; and they dare not be absent from thence, without it be to go to eat, or upon such like occasions. At night they all have their set places within the court, where they cannot come to the speech of the other; neither dare they that are near together, or in sight one of the other, so much as come and sit together, and talk to pass away the nights. All these great men have soldiers under them, and they are also to come by turns to watch at the court. But at night, as their masters and commanders watch within the walls, so they must watch without, in outward courts and guards; neither dare any of them be seen within with their commanders. At the end of every watch there are a multitude of trumpets and drums to make a noise; which is to keep his people waking, and for the honour of his majesty. There are also elephants, which are appointed all night to stand and watch, lest there should be any tumult; which, if there should, could presently trample down a multitude. Strong guards about his court.

He hath also a guard of cofferies, or negroes, in whom he imposeth more confidence than in his own people. These are to watch at his chamber door, and next his person. Next his own pers negroes watch.

At uncertain times he will send out a spy by night, to see what watch is kept; who, once finding one of the great men asleep, took his cap, his sword, and other arms, and brought them to Spies sen out at nig

the king; who afterwards restored them to the owner again, reproving him, and bidding him take more heed for the future. These spies also are to hear and see what passes; neither is there any thing said or done but he has notice of it. Formerly he used in the nights to disguise himself and walk abroad in the streets to see all passages, but now he will not adventure so to do.

His attendants.

Most of his attendants are boys and young men, that are well favoured, and of good parentage. For the supplying himself with these, he gives order to his dissavas, or governors of the country, to pick and choose out boys that are comely and of good descent, and send them to the court. These boys go bare headed, with long hair hanging down their backs. Not that he is guilty of sodomy, nor did I ever hear the sin so much as mentioned among them.

Handsome women belong to his kitchen.

He hath many women belonging to his kitchen, choosing to have his meat dressed by them. Several times he hath sent into the countries a command to gather handsome young women of the Chingulays to recruit his kitchen, with no exceptions, whether married or unmarried; and those that are chosen for that service never return back again. Once since my being on the land, all the Portugueze women that were young and white were sent for to the court, no matter whether maids or wives; where some remained until now, and some that were not amiable in his sight were sent home; and some, having purchased his displeasure, were cast into a river, which is his manner of executing women; and some sent prisoners in the country, being none admitted to speech or sight of them.

His women, and the privilege of the towns where they live.

Concubines he keepeth not many; some are within his palace; and those, whose office is about his kitchen, are reported to be so; which is not improbable, seeing he admits none but them that are young and very handsome to the employment. Other of his women dwell in towns near to the city, into which no stranger is permitted to go, nay, it is dangerous to approach near. These towns have this privilege, that if any slave flee from his master and come hither, he is safe and free from his master's service, but still remains a slave there to them.

His state when he walks in his palace, or goes abroad.

Sometimes he walketh about his palace, where there are certain pedestals of stone whitened with lime and laid in oil, so that they look purely white, made and set up in divers places; here he stands when he comes forth, that he might be above the rest of the people, and see about him. But when he is minded to go abroad, though it be never so little a way, and he seldom or never goes far, order is given, some time before, for all soldiers of his guards, which are a great many, it may be thousands, together with a Dutch and Portugueze captain, with their flags and soldiers, drummers, trumpeters, pipers, singers, and all belonging, as elephants, horses, falconers with their falcons, and many others, to stand at the gate in a readiness to attend his pleasure; and though he means not to come forth, yet they must wait in this manner until he give order that they may depart to their houses. Commonly all this assembly are gathered together at the palace three or four times before he comes out once; and oftentimes he comes out when none there are aware of it, with only those that attend on his person within his palace. And then when it is heard that his majesty is come forth, they all run ready to break their necks, and place themselves at a distance to guard his person and wait his pleasure. Some-

times, but very seldom, he comes forth riding upon a horse or elephant; but usually he is brought out in a palenkeen, which is nothing so well made as in other parts of India. The ends of the bambou it is carried by are largely tipped with silver, and curiously wrought and engraven; for he hath very good workmen of that profession.

The place where he goeth, when he comes thus abroad, is to a banqueting-house built by a pond side, which he has made. It is not above a musket shot from his palace; where he goeth for his diversion. Which I shall by and bye more particularly relate.

His reception of ambassadors.

Another instance of his state and grandeur will appear in his reception of ambassadors, who are received with great honour and show. First he sends several of his great men to meet them with great trains of soldiers, the ways all cut broad, and the grass pared away for many miles; drums, and trumpets, and pipes, and flags going before him. Victuals and all sorts of varieties are daily brought to them, and continue to be so all the time they are in the land, and all at free-cost; for the custom here is, ambassadors, stay they never so long, are maintained at the king's cost and charges; and, being in the city, have their victuals brought them out from the king's palace ready dressed. Presents, goods, or whatsoever they please to bring with them, the king prepareth men to carry. And when they are come to the house that is prepared for them, which is hung top and sides with white calico, they are kept under a guard, and great commanders with soldiers appointed to watch at their gates, which is accounted a great honour. But these guards dare not permit any to come to the speech of them, for

the king careth not that any should talk with ambassadors but himself, with whom he taketh great delight to have conference, and to see them brought before him in fine apparel, their swords by their sides with great state and honour; and that the ambassadors may see and take notice of the greatness of his majesty. And after they have been there some time, he gives them both men and handsome young maids for their servants, to attend and also to accompany them; often causing them to be brought into his presence to see his sports and pastimes, and not caring to send them away; but in a very familiar manner entertaining discourse with them.

His delight in them.

CHAP. II.

Concerning the King's Manners, Vices, Recreations, Religion.

UNDER the consideration of his manners will fall his temperance, his ambition and pride, his policy and dissimulation. his cruel and bloody disposition.

Sparing in his Diet.

He is temperate both in his diet and his lust. Of the former, I am informed by those that have attended on his person in his palace, that though he hath all sorts of varieties the land affords brought to his table, yet his chief fare is herbs and ripe pleasant fruits, and this but once a day. Whatsoever is brought for him to eat or drink is covered with a white cloth, and whoever brings it hath a mufler tied about his mouth, lest he should breathe upon the king's food. The king's manner of eating is thus: He sits upon a stool before a small table, covered with a white cloth, all alone. He eats on a green-plantain leaf laid in a gold bason. There are twenty or thirty dishes prepared for him, which are brought into his dining room; and which of these dishes the king pleases to call for, a nobleman, appointed for that service, takes a portion of, and reaches in a ladle to the king's bason. This person also waits with a muffler about his mouth.

After what manner he eats.

Chaste himself, and re-

And as he is abstemious in his eating, so in the use of women.

If he useth them it is unknown, and with great secrecy. He hath not had the company of his queen this twenty years; to wit, since he went from Candy, where he left her. He allows not in his court whoredom or adultery; and many times, when he hears of the misdemeanours of some of his nobles in regard of women, he not only executes them, but severely punisheth the women, if known; and he hath so many spies, that there is but little done which he knows not of. And often he gives command to expel all the women out of the city, not one to remain; but by little and little, when they think his wrath is appeased, they do creep in again. But no women of any quality dare presume; and, if they would, they cannot, the watches having charge given them not to let them pass. Some have been taken concealed under man's apparel, and what became of them all may judge, for they never went home again. Rebellion does not more displease this king than for his nobles to have to do with women; therefore, when any are admitted to his court to wait upon him, they are not permitted to enjoy the company of their wives, no more than any other women: neither hath he suffered any for near this twenty years to have their wives in the city, except slaves or inferior servants.

quires his attendants to be so.

Indeed, he was once guilty of an act, that seemed to argue him a man of most unbridled lust; for he had a daughter that was with child by himself; but in childbed both died. But this manner of incest is allowable in kings, if it be only to beget a right royal issue, which can only be gotten that way; but in all other it is held abominable, and severely punished; and here they have a common and usual proverb—none can reproach the king nor the beggar. The one being so high, that none dare; and the other so low, that nothing can shame or reproach them.

He committed incest, but such as was allowable.

His pride.

How the people address to the king.

His pride and affectation of honour is unmeasurable; which appears in his people's manner of address to him, which he either commands or allows of. When they come before him they fall flat down on their faces to the ground three several times, and then they sit with their legs under them upon their knees all the time they are in his presence; and, when he bids them to absent, they go backwards until they are out of sight, or a great distance from him: but of Christian people, indeed, he requires no more than to kneel with their hats off before him.

They give him divine worship.

Nay, he takes on him all the ceremonies and solemnities of honour which they shew unto their gods; making his account, that as he is now their king, so hereafter he shall be one of their gods; and the people did call him god. Formerly, since my being on that land, he used not to come out of his palace into the sight of the people but very seldom, out of state and haughtiness of spirit, but now of later times he comes forth daily: and, although he be near fourscore years of age, yet his greatest delight is in honour and majesty, being mostly pleased with high and windy titles given him; such as mauhawaul, a phrase importing greatness, but not expressible in our language; hondrewné boudouind, let your majesty be a god. When the king speaks to them, they answer him at every period, oiboa, many lives; baula gaut, the limb of a dog, speaking to the king of themselves: yet now, of late times, since here happened a rebellion against him, he fears to assume to himself the title of god; having visibly seen, and almost felt, that there is a greater power than his ruling on earth, which set the hearts of the people against him; and so hath given command to profane that great name no more, by ascribing it to him.

Pleased with high titles.

In anno 1675, one of the king's greatest and most valiant generals, and that had been notably successful against the Dutch, had done many pieces of good service for the king, expelled the Hollanders out of several forts, taking and killing many of them; this man the king was jealous of, and did resolve to take away his head as a reward of his valour; which he had some private intelligence of, and so fled, being then in camp against the Dutch, and got to Columba with his wife and goods—by which the king had an invaluable loss. Yet the king, out of the height of his stomach, seemed not in the least to be vexed thereat, neither did he regard it; as if it were beneath the quality of such a monarch to be moved with such a trifle: but sent down another general in his place; and, as for the house and estate of him that fled, and whatsoever he left behind him, he let it lie and rot, scorning to esteem or regard it.

An instance or two of the king's haughty stomach.

He slights the defection of one of his best generals.

To give you an instance or two more of this prince's spirit. At the time of new-year, all his subjects, both high and low, do bring him certain presents, or rather taxes, each one a certain rate; which, formerly, he used constantly to take, but of late years, he so abounds with all things, continually putting into his treasury, and but seldom taking out, and that but little, that he thinks scorn to receive these his due revenues, lest his people should think it were out of necessity and want. Nevertheless the great men still, at the new-year, bring their presents day after day before the king at his coming forth, hoping it will please him to accept them; but now of many years he receives them not. His mind is so haughty, that he scorns to seem to value any thing in the world. When tidings are sometimes brought him, that the Dutch have made an invasion into his

He scorns to receive his revenues.

country, although he be well able to expel them, he will not so much as regard it.

The Dutch serve their ends upon his pride by flattering him.

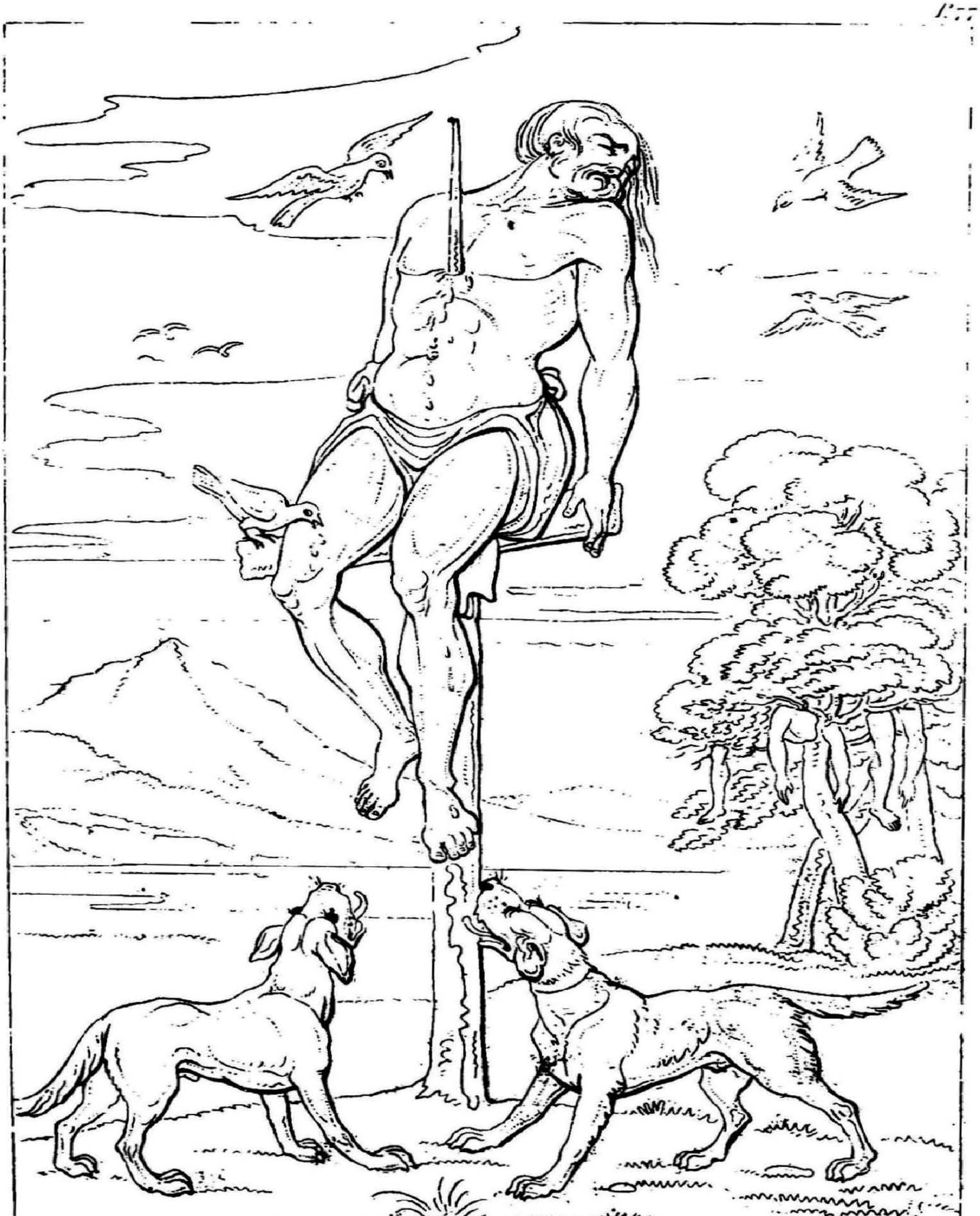
The Dutch, knowing his proud spirit, make their advantage of it, by flattering him with their ambassadors, telling him that they are his majesty's humble subjects and servants; and that it is out of their loyalty to him that they build forts, and keep watches round about his country, to prevent foreign nations and enemies from coming; and that, as they are thus employed in his majesty's service, so it is for sustenance, which they want, that occasioned their coming up into his majesty's country. And thus, by flattering him, and ascribing to him high and honourable titles, which are things he greatly delights in, sometimes they prevail to have the country they have invaded, and he to have the honour. Yet at other times, upon better consideration, he will not be flattered, but falls upon them at unawares, and does them great damage.

The people give way to the king's foul clothes.

Such a veneration does he expect from the people, that whatsoever things are carrying to him, which are known by the white cloth they are wrapped up in, all persons meeting them turn out of the way; not excepting the king's foul clothes: for when they are carried to washing, which is daily, all, even the greatest, rise up as they come by, which is known by being carried on a hand heaved upwards, covered with a painted cloth.

His natural abilities, and deceitful temper.

He is crafty, cautious, a great dissembler, nor doth he want wisdom. He is not passionate in his anger; for with whomsoever he be angry, he will not shew it: neither is he rash or overhasty in any matters, but doth all things with deliberation,



Smith sc. 63 H. Holborn

One Impaled on a Stake

London: Published May 20th 1816 — by J. Narroman

though but with a little advice; asking counsel of nobody but himself. He accounts it wit and policy to lie and dissemble, that his intents and purposes may the better be concealed; but he abhorreth and punisheth those that lie to him.

Dutch run-aways, whereof there are several come to him, he saith, are rogues, that either have robbed or killed, or else would never run away from their own nation; and, though he receiveth them, yet esteemeth them not. His wise saying concerning run-aways.

He seems to be naturally disposed to cruelty; for he sheds a great deal of blood, and gives no reason for it. His cruelty appears both in the tortures and painful deaths he inflicts, and in the extent of his punishments, viz. upon whole families for the miscarriage of one in them: for when the king is displeased with any, he does not always command to kill them outright, but first to torment them, which is done by cutting and pulling away their flesh by pincers, burning them with hot irons clapped to them, to make them confess of their confederates; and this they do to rid themselves of their torments, confessing far more than ever they saw or knew. After their confession, sometimes he commands to hang their two hands about their necks, and to make them eat their own flesh, and their own mothers to eat of their own children; and so to lead them through the city in public view, to terrify all unto the place of execution, the dogs following to eat them; for they are so accustomed to it, that they, seeing a prisoner led away, follow after. At the place of execution there are always some sticking upon poles, others hanging up in quarters upon trees, besides what lie killed by elephants on the ground, or by other ways. Naturally cruel. The dogs follow prisoners to execution.

This place is always in the greatest highway, that all may see and stand in awe; for which end this is his constant practice.

The king's prisoners; their misery.

Moreover, he hath a great many prisoners, whom he keepeth in chains; some in the common jail, some committed to the custody of great men; and for what or for how long time none dare inquire. Commonly they lie thus two, four, or six years; and some have victuals given them; and some, not having it, must ask leave to go out and beg with a keeper. It is according as the king appoints when they are committed: or some of them, being driven to want, do get food by work, such as sewing, making caps, doublets, purses. This coming once to the king's ears, he said, "I put them there to torment and punish them, not to work and be well maintained;" and so commanded to take away their scissors and needles from them: yet this lasted not long; for afterwards they fell to their work again. Those that have been long there, are permitted to build little shops on the street side against the prison, and to come out in the day-time and sell their work as they make it; but in the night-time are shut up again.

When the streets are to be swept about the palace, they make the prisoners come out in their chains and do it.

And, after all their imprisonment, without any examination, they are carried forth and executed; and these not only the common sort, but even the greatest and most nobly descended in the land; for with whom he is displeased he maketh no difference.

He punishes whole gene-

Nor is his wrath appeased by the execution of the malefactor,

but oftentimes he punisheth all his generation; it may be kills them altogether, or gives them all away for slaves.

rations for the sake of one.

The sad condition of young gentlemen that wait on his person.

Thus he often deals with those whose children are his attendants. I mentioned before, that young men of the best families in the land are sought out to wait upon the king in his court: these, after they have served him some small time, and have, as it were, but seen the court, and known his customs and manners, he requiteth them by cutting off their heads, and putting them into their bellies; other faults none do know. Heretofore, as it is reported, he was not so cruel, but now none escape that serves in his palace. Then he recruits his slain out of the countries, by giving orders to his dissavas, or governors, to send him others to court; whither they go like an ox to the slaughter, but with far more heavy hearts; for both they and their parents full well know what end the king's honourable service will bring them to: howbeit there is no remedy. Being thus by order sent unto the court, their own parents must provide for, and maintain them, until the king is pleased to call them to his use, which it may be will not be in some years. Sometimes it happens, that the boys thus brought, before the king makes use of them about his person, are grown too big, and so escape: but those that are employed in this palace enjoy this favour—that all such taxes, customs, or other duties belonging to the king, which their fathers were wont to pay, are released, until such time as they are discharged from the king's employment; which is always either by execution, or by being given to somebody for perpetual bondmen. During the time of the king's favour he is never admitted to go home to visit his parents and friends. The male kind may come to see him, but no women are admitted, be it his mother

that bear him; and, after he is killed, though for what no man knows, he is accounted a rebel and traitor against the king: and then his father's house, land, and estate, is seized on for the king; which, after some time, by giving of fees and gifts to the great ones, they do redeem again; and sometimes the whole family and generation perish, as I said before: so that after a lad is taken into the king's palace, his kindred are afraid to acknowledge alliance to him. But these matters may more properly be related when we come to speak of his tyranny.

His pleasure houses.

Sometimes, for his pleasure, he will ride or be carried to his banquetting-house, which is about a musket-shot from his palace. It stands on a little hill, where, with abundance of pains, and many months labour, they have made a little plain, in length not much above an arrow's flight, in breadth less; where, at the head of a small valley, he hath made a bank across to stop the water running down. It is now become a fine pond, and exceeding full of fish. At this place the king hath several houses built according to his own appointment, very handsome, borne up with carved pillars and painted, and round about rails and bannisters turned, one painted and one ebony, like balcony—some standing high upon a wall, being for him to sit in and see sport with his elephants and other beasts, as also for a prospect abroad—others standing over this pond, where he himself sits and feedeth his fish with boiled rice, fruits, and sweetmeats. They are so tame that they will come and eat in his hand; but never doth he suffer any to be caught. This pond is useful for his elephants to wash in. The plain was made for his horses to run upon: for oftentimes he commands his grooms to get up and ride in his presence; and sometimes, for that good service, gives the rider five or ten shillings,

and it may be a piece of cloth. Always when he comes forth his horses are brought out ready saddled before him, but he himself mounts them very seldom; all of which he had from the Dutch—some sent to him for presents, and some he hath taken in war. He hath in all some twelve or fourteen; some of which are Persian horses.

Other pastimes and recreations he hath, (for this is all he minds or regards,) as to make them bring wild elephants out of the wood, and catch them in his presence: the manner how they get them unto the city I have mentioned already. Also, when he comes out of his court, he delights to look upon his hawks, although he never use them for his game; sometimes on his dogs, and tame deer, and tigers, and strange kind of birds and beasts; of both which he hath a great many. Also, he will try his guns, and shoot at marks, which are excellently true, and rarely inlaid with silver, gold, and ivory; for the smiths that make them dare not present them to his hand, not having sufficiently proved them. He hath eight or nine small iron cannon, lately taken from the Dutch, which he hath mounted in field carriages, all rarely carved, and inlaid with silver and brass, and coloured stones, set in convenient places, and painted with images and flowers; but the guns disgrace the carriage. He keeps them in a house on the plain. Upon some festival times he useth them. I think they are set there chiefly for a memorial of his late victories; for he hath many and far better guns of brass that are not so regarded. His pastimes abroad.

In his palace he passeth his time with looking upon certain toys and fancies that he hath, and upon his arms and guns, call- His diversion at home.

ing in some or other of his great men to see the same, asking them if they have a gun will shoot further than that; and how much steel such a knife, as he will shew them, needs to have in it. He takes great delight in swimming, in which he is very expert; and the custom is, when he goes into the water, that all his attendants that can swim must go in likewise.

His religion.

And now, lastly, for his religion, you cannot expect much from him. Of the religion of his country he makes but a small profession; as perceiving that there is a greater God than those that they, through long custom, have and do worship; and therefore when an impostor, a bastard Moor by nation born in that land, came and publicly set up a new nameless god, as he styled him, and that he was sent to destroy the temples of their gods, the king opposed it not for a good while, as waiting to see which of these gods would prevail, until he saw that he aimed to make himself king, then he allowed of him no longer; as I shall shew more at large hereafter, when I come to speak of the religion of the country.

How he stands affected to the Christian religion.

The Christian religion he doth not in the least persecute or dislike; but rather, as it seems to me, esteems and honours it. As a sign of which take this passage:—when his sister died, for whom he had a very dear affection, there was a very grievous mourning and lamentation made for her throughout the whole nation; all mirth and feasting laid aside, and all possible signs of sorrow expressed; and, in all probability, it was as much as their lives were worth, who should at this time do any thing that might look like joy. This was about Christmas. The Dutch did, notwithstanding, adventure to keep their Christmas by

feasting. The news of this was brought to the king, and every body reckoned it would go hard with the Dutch for doing this; but, because it was done at a festival of their religion, the king past it by, and took no notice of it. The value also that he has for the Christian religion will appear from the respect he gives the professors of it, as will be seen afterwards.

CHAP. III.

Of the King's Tyrannical Reign.

WE have all this while considered this king with respect unto his person, temper, and inclinations; now we will speak of him with more immediate respect unto his office and government, as he is a king. And here we will discourse of the manner of his government; of his treasure and revenues; of his great officers; and lastly, of his strength and wars.

His government tyrannical.

As to the manner of his government, it is tyrannical and arbitrary in the highest degree; for he ruleth absolute, and after his own will and pleasure—his own head being his only counsellor. The land all at his disposal; and all the people, from the highest to the lowest, slaves, or very like slaves; both in body and goods wholly at his command. Neither wants he those three virtues of a tyrant—jealousy, dissimulation, and cruelty.

His policy.

But because policy is a necessary endowment of a prince, I will first shew, in an instance or two, that he is not devoid of it.

He farms out his country for service.

The country, being wholly his, the king farms out his land, not for money, but service; and the people enjoy portions of land from the king; and, instead of rent, they have their several appointments: some are to serve the king in his wars, some in

their trades, some serve him for labourers, and others are as farmers to furnish his house with the fruits of the ground; and so all things a.e done without cost, and every man paid for his pains—that is, they have lands for it. Yet all have not watered land enough for their needs; that is, such land as good rice requires to grow in; so that such are fain to sow on dry land, and till other men's fields for a subsistence. These persons are free from payment of taxes; only sometimes, upon extraordinary occasions, they must give a hen, or mat, or such like, to the king's use, forasmuch as they use the wood and water that is in his country; but if any find the duty to be heavy, or too much for them, they may, leaving their house and land, be free from the king's service, as there is a multitude do; and, in my judgment, they live far more at ease, after they have relinquished the king's land, than when they had it.

Many towns are in the king's hand, the inhabitants whereof are to till and manure a quantity of the land, according to their ability, and lay up the corn for the king's use. These towns the king often bestows upon some of his nobles for their encouragement and maintenance, with all the fruits and benefits that before came to the king from them. In each of these towns there is a smith to make and mend the tools of them to whom the king hath granted them, and a potter to fit them with earthern ware, and a washer to wash their clothes, and other men to supply what there is need of; and each one of these hath a piece of land for this their service, whether it be to the king or the lord; but what they do for the other people they are paid for. Thus all that have any place or employment, under the king, are paid without any charge to the king.

His policy to secure himself from assassination or rebellion.

His great endeavour is to secure himself from plots and conspiracies of his people, who are sorely weary of his tyrannical government over them, and do often plot to make away with him; but, by his subtilty and good fortune together, he prevents them; and, for this purpose, he is very vigilant in the night: the noise of trumpets and drums, which he appoints at every watch, hinders both himself and all others from sleeping. In the night also he commonly does most of his business, calling ambassadors before him, and reading the letters; also displacing some of his courtiers, and promoting others, and giving sentence to execute those whom he would have to live no longer; and many times commands to lay hold on and carry away great and noble men, who, until that instant, knew not that they were out of his favour.

Another point of his policy.

His policy is to make his country as intricate and difficult to travel as may be, and therefore forbids the woods to be felled, especially those that divide province from province; and permits no bridges to be made over his rivers, nor the paths to be made wider.

Another, which is to find his people work to do.

He often employs his people in vast works, and that will require years to finish, that he may inure them to slavery, and prevent them from plotting against him, as haply they might do if they were at better leisure: therefore he approves not that his people should be idle; but always finds one thing or other to be done, though the work be to little or no purpose. According to the quantity of the work, so he will appoint the people of one county or of two to come in; and the governor of the said county or counties to be overseer of the work. At such times the soldiers must lay by their swords, and work among the

people. These works are either digging down hills, and carrying the earth to fill up valleys; thus to enlarge his court, which standeth between two hills (a more uneven and unhandsome spot of ground he could not well have found in all his kingdom); or else making ways for the water to run into the pond, and elsewhere, for his use in his palace; where he hath it running through in many places unto little ponds, made with lime and stone, and full of fish.

To bring this water to his palace was no small deal of labour; for, not having a more convenient way, they were forced to split a great mountain in twain to bring the water through, and after that to make a bank cross a valley far above a cable's length, and in height above four fathoms, with thickness proportionable to maintain it, for the water to run over the top; which, at first being only earth, the water would often break down; but now both bottom and sides are paved and wrought up with stone. After all this, yet it was at least four or five miles to bring this water in a ditch, and the ground all hills and valleys; so that they were forced to turn and wind, as the water would run: also, when they met with rocks which they could not move, as this ground is full of them, they made great fires with wood upon it, until it was soundly hot; and hereby it became so soft, that they could easily break it with mauls.

A vast work undertaken and finished by the king

This water was that which nourished that country, from whence it was taken: the people of which, ever since, have scarce been able to till their land; which extremity did compel the people of those parts to use a means to acquaint the king how the country was destroyed thereby, and disabled from performing those duties and services, which they owed unto the

The turning this water did great injury to the people.

king; and that there was water sufficient both for his majesty's service, and also to relieve their necessities; which the king took very ill from them, as if they would seem to grudge him a little water: and sure I am, woe be to him, that should mention that matter again.

But he little regards his people's good.

So far is he from regarding the good of his country, that he rather endeavours the destruction thereof: for issue he hath none alive; and, ere long, being of a great age, Nature tells him, he must leave it. Howbeit, no love lost between the king and his people. Yet he daily contriveth and buildeth in his palace like Nebuchadnezzar, wet and dry, day and night, not shewing the least sign of favour to his people; who oftentimes, by such needless employments, are letted from the seasonable times of ploughing and harvest, to their great prejudice, and sometimes utter undoing.

The king by craft at once both pleased and punished the people

After the rebellion, when the people, that lived at a further distance, saw that the king intended to settle himself near the mountain to which he fled, viz. Digligy, and not to come into the old city again, it being very troublesome and tedious to bring their rents and taxes thither, they all jointly met together, being a great number, and sent an address, to intimate their desires to him; which was with great submission,—That his majesty would not leave them destitute of his presence, which was to them as the sun; that he would not absent himself from them to dwell in a mountain in a desolate country; but, seeing there was no further danger, and all the rebels destroyed, that he would return to his old palace again, vowing all fidelity to him. The king did not like this message, and was somewhat afraid, there

being such a tumultuous company met together, and so thought not fit to drive them away, or publicly to declare his displeasure at them, but went to work like a politician; which was, to tell them, that he thanked them for their love and affection towards him; and that he was desirous to dwell among them in such a part of their country as he named; and so bade them all go to work to build him a palace there. The people departed with some satisfaction, and fell to work might and main; and continued at it for near two years together, felling timber, and fetching it out of the woods, laying foundations, hewing stone, till they were almost killed with labour: and, being wrought quite tired, they began to accuse and grumble at one another, for having been the occasion of all this toil. After they had laboured thus a long while, and were all discouraged, and the people quiet, the king sent word to them to leave off. And now it lies unfinished, all the timber brought in rots upon the place, and the building runs to ruin.

And this is the manner how he employs his people; pulling down and building up again, equalling unequal grounds, making sinks under ground for the passage of water through his palace, dragging of great trees out of the wood to make pounds to catch elephants in his presence; although they could catch them with far less labour, and making houses to keep them in, after they are taken. In what labours he employs his people.

He stands not upon any villainy to establish himself, or strike terror into his people. This made him cut off his only son, a young man of about fifteen years. After the rebellion, the kingdom being settled in the king's hands again, and knowing that the hearts of the people disaffecting him stood strongly bent to- He poisons his only son.

wards the prince; and, fearing his own safety, as the prince grew to riper years to prevent all, he poisoned him. For about a year after the rebellion, his son was sick; the king takes this opportunity to dispatch him, by pretending to send physic to him to cure him. The people hearing of the death of the prince, according to the custom of the land, when any of the royal blood is deceased, came all in general towards the city where he was, with black, or else very dirty clothes, which is their mourning; the men all bare-headed, the women with their hair loose and hanging about their shoulders, to mourn and lament for the death of their young prince; which the king hearing of, sent this word unto them—that since it was not his fortune to live, to sit on his throne after him, and reign over the land, it would be but in vain to mourn; and a great trouble and let unto the country: and their voluntary good will was taken in as good part as the mourning itself; and so dismissed the assembly, and burned the prince's dead body without ceremonies or solemnities.

The extraordinary lamentation at the death of his sister.

Yet the death of an old sister, which he had, caused no small lamentation. It was she that carried the prince away in the rebellion; which I shall relate by and by. Country after country came up to mourn, giving all signs of extraordinary sadness, both in habit and countenance: the king himself was seen to weep bitterly. The white men also came, which the king took well: insomuch, that the Hollanders, supposing the king himself to be dead, came up to take possession of the country; but, hearing the contrary, and understanding their mistake, returned back again. The king and all his country for more than a year's time went in mourning; and her body was burnt with all the honour and state that could be: yet, notwithstanding all

the love and respect he bear unto her, he did not once visit her in all the time of her sickness: and, it is now for certain reported, that there is not one of his generation left.

His craft and cruelty shewn at once.

Once, to try the hearts of his attendants, and to see what they would do, being in the water a swimming, he feigned himself to be in extremity, and near drowning, and cried out for help; upon which two young men, more venturous and forward than the rest, immediately made way and came to his help; who, taking hold of his body, brought him safe to land, at which he seemed to be very glad: putting on his clothes, he went to his palace—then he demanded to know who and which they were that had holpen him out of the water: they, supposing by his speech it was to give them a reward for the good service they had so lately done him, answered, We were they: whereupon he commands to call such a great man, (for it is they whom he appoints always to see execution done by his soldiers) to whom he gave command, saying—Take both these, and lead them to such a place, and cut off their heads, who dared to presume to lay their hands on my person, and did not prostrate themselves rather, that I might lay my hand on them for my relief and safety: and, accordingly, they were executed.

CHAP. IV.

Of his Revenues and Treasure.

The king's rents brought three times in the year.

THREE times in the year they usually carry their rents unto the king. The one is at the new year, called ourida cotamaul: the other is for the first fruits, alleusal cotamaul; and the last is at a certain sacrifice in the month of November, to their god, called ilmoy cotamaul; but, besides these, whatsoever is wanting in the king's house at any other time, and they have it, they must upon the king's order bring it. These rents are but little money, but chiefly corn, rice, or what grows out of the ground.

The first is accompanied with a great festival.

To speak a little of the first time, viz. at the beginning of the new year, when the king's duties are brought him. This new year is always either the 27th, or the 28th, or the 29th of March: at this time, upon a special and good day (for which the astrologers are consulted) the king washes his head, which is a very great solemnity among them. The palace is all adorned with tor-nes, a sort of triumphal arches, that make a very fine show. They are high poles standing in rows before all the gates of the palace, either nine or seven in a row, the middlemost being the highest, and so they fall lower and lower on each side. Through the middle of them there is an arched passage, which serves for a door: on the top of the poles are flags flying, and all about hung full of painted cloth, with

images, and figures of men, and beasts, and birds, and flowers; fruits also are hanged up in great order and exactness. On each side of the entrance of the arch stand plantain trees, with bunches of plantains on them, as if they were growing.

There are also in some places single poles, of an exceeding height standing by, with long penons of divers colours flying, and a bell at the end of each, as in the figure B. And now they say, the palace is adorned beyond heaven.

All the army is summoned in to stand and wait at the palace, for the greater state; in the mean time he goes to his washing-houses—houses built on purpose for him to wash in, called oulpungi: here are baths, and streams, and conveyances of water, and many servants, whose office it is to wait upon the business of these houses: here he washes his head; which, when he has done, he comes forth into public view, where all his militia stand in their arms; then the great guns are fired. Now all the great men, the nobles, and the governors of the country, make their appearance before him with their dackini, their new-year's gifts, which are due and accustomed presents, for persons in their places and offices to give—there is a certain rate for it; their manner of bringing these gifts or rather duties is thus: their servants bring them wrapped up in white cloth to the court, and then they take them at their hands, put them upon their heads, and so come in humble manner, and lay them at the king's feet; these presents are gold, jewels, plate, arms, knives, cloth; each one by a rate according to the place he is in, and the country he hath under him: and most of them are to present a sum of money besides; and, if they can procure any precious stone, or rarity, or any other thing, which they think the king

How the nobles bring their gifts, or duties.

will accept, that also they bring, and glad they are to be honoured with the favour of his acceptance; these new-year's gifts for these many years he thinks scorn to receive, and bids them carry them away again till another time;—thus they come with them time after time presenting them, which he as often refusing: at last they bring them no more.

Inferior persons present their new year's gifts.

All sorts of tradesmen, also, and such as by their skill can any ways get money, at the new year are to pay into the treasury each one a certain rate; which now-a-days he accepts not, though formerly he always did.

What taxes and rents the people pay.

At this and the other times the things which the people carry, as their rents and taxes, are wine, oil, corn, honey, wax, cloth, iron, elephants teeth, tobacco, money; they bring them themselves, and wait at court with them commonly divers months, before they be received;—the great officers tell the king, the people have brought their rents: the king saith,—'Tis well; but, if he give no order withal to receive the things brought (as he seldom does) there is no remedy, but there they must wait with them; and this he doth out of state: the rents and duties brought at the two other times are after the same manner; the great men do only bring theirs once at the new year.

The accidental incomes of the crown.

There are other revenues the king hath, which are accidental, but bring in great wealth; that whensoever any man dies, that hath a stock of cattle, immediately out thence must be paid a bull and a cow with a calf, and a male and female buffalo, which tax they call marral; and there are officers appointed, whose place it is to come and carry them away; also at harvest yearly

there is a certain rate of corn to be paid by every man according to the land they hold and enjoy; heretofore the king granted, that, upon payment of a sum of money, they should be clear from this yearly tax of corn so long, till the present possessor died, and the land descended to his son or somebody else; and then the estate became liable again to the forementioned duties; but now of late there is no mention of any discharge by money: so that in time all houses and families in the kingdom will be liable to the payment of this tax of corn; which will bring in no small quantity of provision to the king; only soldiers that are slain in the wars, their lands are free from the payment of this tax; but if they die naturally they are not: the farmers, all in general, besides their measures of corn, pay a certain duty in money, with their rents.

The profits that accrue to the king from corn lands.

If they sell or alienate their inheritances, the king's accustomed duties must not be diminished, whosoever buyeth or enjoyeth them; neither is here any land which doth not either pay, or do some duty to the king; only one case excepted—and that is, if they give or dedicate land to a priest, as an alms or deed of charity in God's name; on that there is never any more tax or duty to be imposed, as being sacrilegious to take ought from one that belongs to the temple. Formerly, the king had the benefit of the trade of two ports—Cortiar and Portalone; unto each of which used to come yearly some twenty or thirty sail of small vessels, which brought considerable customs in; but now the Hollander has deprived him of both, suffering no vessels to come.

Customs of goods imported formerly paid.

The king hath several treasure-houses, and in several places, in cities and towns, where always are guards of soldiers to watch

them both day and night. I cannot certainly declare all that is contained in them: there are precious stones, such as his land affords; money, but not very much; cloth, and what he hath got by shipwreck; presents, that have been sent him from other nations; elephants teeth, wax, good store of arms, as guns, bows and arrows, pikes, halberds, swords, ammunition, store of knives, iron, tallipat-leaves, whereof one will cover a large tent, bedsteads, tables, boxes, mats of all sorts. I will not adventure to declare further the contents of his treasuries, lest I may be guilty of a mistake; but, sure I am, he hath plenty of all such things as his lands affords; for he is very provident, and careful to be well furnished with all things; and, what he does abound with, he had rather it should lie and rot, than be embezzled and wasted; that is, distributed among his servants, or slaves; of which he hath great store.

His treasuries.

He has many elephants.

He hath some hundreds of elephants, which he keepeth tame, and could have as many more as he pleaseth; but, although not caught, yet they are all his, and at his command when he pleaseth.

Great treasure thrown into the river formerly.

It is frequently reported, and I suppose is true, that both he and his predecessors, by the distress they have been driven to by the Portuguese, have cast some store of riches into the great river, Mavelagonga, running by the city, in deep holes among rocks, which is irrecoverable, and into a made pond by the palace in the city of Candy, or Hingodegul-neur; wherein are kept to this day two alligators, so that none dare go into the water for fear of being devoured by them; and oftentimes they do destroy cows, that go to drink there; but this pond, by cutting the bank, might easily be drained.

The treasure he most valueth.

To conclude, the land that is under his jurisdiction is all his, with the people, their estates, and whatsoever it affords, or is therein; but that which he doth chiefly value and esteem are toys and novelties—as hawks, horses, dogs, strange birds, and beasts, and particularly a spotted elephant, and good arms, of which he hath no want.

CHAP. V.

Of the King's great Officers, and the Governors of the Provinces.

Two greatest officers in the land.

THERE are two, who are the greatest and highest officers in the land; they are called adigars—I may term them chief judges; under whom is the government of the cities, and the countries also in the vacancy of other governors: all people have liberty in default of justice to appeal to these adigars; or, if their causes and differences be not decided by their governors according to their minds.

To these there are many officers and sergeants belonging: all which, to be known, carry staves in their hands like to bandyes, the crooked end uppermost, which none but they dare carry: the sight of which staves, upon what message soever they be sent, signifies as much as the adigar's hand and seal: if the adigar be ignorant in what belongs to his place and office, these men do instruct him what and how to do; the like is in all other places which the king bestows: if they know not what belongs to their places, there are inferior officers under them, that do teach and direct them how to act.

The next great officers.

Next under the adigars are the dissauvas, who are governors over provinces and counties of the land: each province and county has its governor; but all governors are not dissauvas, nor

other great officers known by other names or titles, as roterauts, and vidanies; but all these generals, or chief commanders, who have a certain number of soldiers under them. These great men are to provide, that good order be kept in the countries over which they are placed, and that the king's accustomed duty be brought in due season to the court. They have power also to decide controversies between the people of their jurisdiction, and to punish contentions and disorderly persons, which they do chiefly by amercing a fine from them, which is for their profit, for it is their own; and also by committing them to prison: into which, when they are once fallen, no means without money can get them out again. But be the fact never so heinous (murther itself) they can put none to death—the sentence of death being pronounced only by the king. They also are sent upon expeditions in war with their soldiers, and give attendance and watch at court in their appointed stations.

None can put to death but the king

These dissauvas are also to see that the soldiers in their countries do come in due season and order for that purpose.

They are appointed by the king himself, not for life, but during his good pleasure; and, when they are dead or removed, oftentimes their places lay void, sometimes for months, sometimes perhaps for years; during which time the adigar rules and governs those countries; and for his labour receiveth all such income and profits as are accustomed and of right do belong to the governor.

These dissauvas are durante beue plasito

The king, when he advances any one to be dissauvas, or to any other great office, regards not their ability or sufficiency to perform the same; only they must be persons of good rank and

Whom the king makes dissauvas; and their profits and honours.

genteel extraction: and they are all naturally discreet and very solid, and so the fitter for the king's employment. When he first promotes them, he shews them great testimonies of his love and favour, (especially to those that are Christians, in whose service he imposeth greater confidence than in his own people, concluding that they will make more conscience of their ways, and be more faithful in their office) and gives them a sword,—the hilt all carved and inlaid with silver and brass very handsomely, the scabbard also covered with silver—a knife, and halberd; and lastly, a town or towns for their maintenance. The benefit of which is, that all the profits, which before the king received from those towns, now accrues unto the king's officer. These towns are composed of all sorts of trades and people that are necessary for his service, to whom the king hath given them a potter, a smith, a washer; and there is a piece of land, according to the ability of the town, which the townsmen are to till and manure and to lay up the corn for his use: which matters I mentioned before in the third chapter. And, besides the customs or taxes that all other free towns pay to the king, there is a due, but smaller, to be paid to the governor out of them. But these are not all his advantages.

Other benefits belonging to other officers.

When there is a new governor made over any country, it is the custom that that whole country comes up to appear before him at the court, for there his residence is; neither may they come empty handed, but each one must bring his gift or present with him. These also are expected at other times to be brought unto him by the people, though they have no business with him, no suits or causes to be decided: even private soldiers, at their first coming, though to their due watch, must personally appear before their commander; and, if he have nothing else, he

must present him with forty leaves of green betle, which he with his own hand receiveth, and they with both their, and delivers into his, which is taken for an honour he vouchsafes them.

These governors, nor any other admitted to court into the king's service, are never after to return home, although they are not employed at present, and might be spared—neither are they permitted to enjoy their wives; and they are day and night to stand guard in certain stations, where the king appoints them. They must always reside at court

Things thus standing with them, they cannot go in person to visit and oversee their several charges themselves. They have therefore several offices under them to do it; the chief of whom is the courlividani. This person, beside his entertainment in the country, unto which he is sent to govern under the dissauva, hath a due revenue, but smaller than that of the governor. His chief business is to rack and hale all that may be for his master, and to see good government; and, if there be any difference or quarrel between one or other, he takes a fine from both, and carrieth to the governor, not regarding equity, but the profit of himself and him that employs him. But he hears their case and determines it; and, if they like not his sentence, they may remove their business unto the governor himself, whose desire is not so much to find out the right of the cause, as that that may be most for his own interest and profit. And these carriages cannot reconcile them much love among the people; but the more they are hated by the people for their rigorous government, the better they please the king: for he cares not that the country should affect the great men. The officers under them. Courlividani.

The dissauvas, by these courlividani, their officers, do op-

press and squeeze the people, by laying mulcts upon them for some crimes or misdemeanors, that they will find and lay to their charge. In fine, this officer is the dissauva's chief substitute, who orders and manages all affairs incumbent upon his master.

Congconna.

Next to him is congconna, an overseer, who is to oversee all things under the courlividani: but, besides him, there is a courti-achila, like our constable, who is to put that in execution that the governor orders, to dispatch any thing away that the land affords for the king's use, and to send persons to court that are summoned; and, in the discharge of this his office, he may call in the assistance of any man.

Courti-achila.

The Liannah.

The next officer under the governor is the liannah. The writer, who reads letters brought, and takes account of all business, and of what is sent away to the court: he is also to keep registers, and to write letters, and to take notice of things happening.

The undia

Next to him is the undia, a word that signifieth a lump: he is a person that gathers the king's money; and so is styled, because he gathereth the king's monies together into a lump.

The monnannah.

After him is the monnannah, the measurer: his place is to go and measure the corn that grows upon the king's land, or what other corn belongeth to him.

The power of these officers extends not all a whole county or province over, but to a convenient part or division of it; to wit, so much as they may well manage themselves. And there are several sets of the like officers appointed over other portions of the country, as with us there are divers hundreds or di-

visions in a county, to each of which are distinct officers belonging.

These officers can exercise their authority throughout the whole division over which they are constituted, excepting some certain towns, that are of exempt jurisdiction; and they are of two sorts. First, such towns as belong to the idol temples and the priests, having been given and bestowed on them long ago by former kings; and secondly, the towns which the king allots to his noblemen and servants. Over these towns, thus given away, neither the fore-mentioned officers, nor the chief magistrate himself, hath any power; but those, to whom they are given, and do belong to, do put in their own officers, who serve to the same purposes as the abovesaid do.

Some towns exempt from the dissauva's officers.

But these are not all the officers; there are others, whose place it is, upon the death of any head of a family, to fetch away the king's marrals, harriots as I may call them; viz. a bull and a cow, a male and female buffalo, out of his stock; which is accustomably due to the king, as I have mentioned before—and others, who in harvest time carry away certain measures of corn out of every man's crop, according to the rate of their land.

Other officers yet.

These inferior officers commonly get their places by bribery; their children do pretend a right to them after their father's death, and will be preferred before others, greasing the magistrate.

These places obtained by bribes.

None of these have their places for life, and no longer than the governor pleaseth; and he pretty often removes them,

But remain only during pleasure.

or threatens to do so, upon pretence of some neglects, to get money from them. And the people have this privilege—that upon complaint made of any of these officers, and request that they may be changed, and others made, they must be displaced, and others put in; but not at their choice, but at the choice of the chief magistrate, or owner cf the town.

Country courts.

For the hearing complaints, and doing justice among neighbours, here are country courts of judicature, consisting of these officers, together with the head men of the places and towns where the courts are kept; and these are called gom sabbi; as much as to say, town consultations. But if any do not like, and is loath to stand by what they have determined, and think themselves wronged, they may appeal to their head governor that dwells at court; but it is chargeable—for he must have a fee. They may appeal also from him to the adigars, or the chief justices of the kingdom; but whoso gives the greatest bribe, he shall overcome; for it is a common saying in this land,—That he that has money to fee the judge, needs not fear nor care whether his cause be right or not. The greatest punishment that these judges can inflict upon the greatest malefactors is but imprisonment— from which money will release him.

They may appeal.

Appeals to the king.

Some have adventured to appeal to the king sometimes, falling down on the ground before him at his coming forth, which is the manner of their obeisance to him, to complain of injustice. Sometimes he will give order to the great ones to do them right, and sometimes bid them wait, until he is pleased to hear the cause, which is not suddenly—for he is very slow in all his business; neither dare they then depart from the court, having

been bidden to stay; where they stay till they are weary, being at expense, so that the remedy is worse than the disease. And sometimes, again, when they thus fall before him, he commands to beat them and put them in chains for troubling of him; and perhaps in that condition they may lay for some years.

How these great officers travel upon public business.

The king's great officers, when they go abroad into the countries about the king's business, they go attended with a number of soldiers armed both before and behind them: their sword, if not by their side, a boy carrieth after him; neither do they carry their swords for their safety or security, (for in travelling here is little or no danger at all,) but it is out of state, and to shew their greatness. The custom is, that all their journey victuals be prepared for them ready dressed; if their business requires haste, then it is brought on a pole on a man's shoulder, the pots that hold it hanging on each end, so that nothing can be spilt out into the road; and this is got ready against the great man's coming: so that they are at no charge for diet—it is brought in at the charge of the country: but, however, this is not for all his soldiers that attend him (they must bring their own provisions with them), but only for himself, and some of his captains.

Their titles and signs of state.

The greatest title that is allowed in the city to be given to the greatest man, is oussary, which signifieth worshipful; but when they are abroad from the king, men call them sihattu and dishondrew, implying honour and excellency. These grandces, whensoever they walk abroad, their manner is in state to lean upon the arm of some man or boy; and the adigar, besides this piece of state, wheresoever he goes, there is one with a great

whip, like a coach-whip, goes before him slashing it, that all people may have notice that the adigar is coming.

The misery that succeeds their honour.

But there is something comes after, that makes all the honour and wealth of these great courtiers not at all desirable; and that is, that they are so obnoxious to the king's displeasure; which is a thing so customary, that it is no disgrace for a nobleman to have been in chains; nay, and in the common gaol too. And the great men are as ready, when the king commands, to lay hold on one another, as he to command them; and glad to have the honour to be the king's executioners, hoping to have the place and office of the executed. When any of these are thus dispatched, commonly he cuts off or imprisoneth all the male kind that are near of kin, as sons or brothers, fearing they should plot revenge, and seizes on all the estate; and, as for the family, after examination, with punishment to make them confess where the estate lies, they have monthly allowance out of the same: but the wife, or women-kindred, are now nothing at all in esteem for honourable ladies as they were before. Yet sometimes he will send for the sons or brothers of those whom he hath cut off for traitors, and remand them out of the prisons where he had committed them, and prefer them in honourable employment.

The foolish ambition of the men and women of this country

It is generally reported, and I have seen it so, that those whom he prefers unto the greatest and weightiest employments, are those whom he intends soon to cut off; and contrariwise, those whom he doth affect, and intends to have longer service of, shall not be so laden with places and honours. Howbeit, although they know and see this before their eyes daily, yet their

hearts are so haughty and ambitious, that their desires and endeavours are to ascend unto the highest degrees of honour, though that be but one remove from death and utter destruction. And the women's ambition is so great also, that they will put their husbands on to seek for preferment, urging how dishonourable it is for them to sit at home like women, that so they may have respect, and be reputed for great ladies.

CHAP. VI.

Of the King's Strength and Wars.

The king's military affairs.

IT remains now that I speak a little of the king's military affairs His power consists in the natural strength of his country, in his watches, and in the craft, more than the courage, of his soldiers.

The natural strength of his country.

He hath no artificial forts or castles, but nature hath supplied the want of them; for his whole country of Candy Uda, standing upon such high hills, and those so difficult to pass, is all an impregnable fort; and so is more especially Digligy-neur, his present palace. These places have been already described at large, and therefore I omit speaking any further of them here.

Watches and thorn-gates.

There are constant watches, set in convenient places, in all parts of the country, and thorn-gates; but in time of danger, besides the ordinary watches, in all towns, and in all places, and in every cross road, exceeding thick, that it is not possible for any to pass unobserved. These thorn-gates, which I here mention, and have done before, are made of a sort of thorn-bush or thorn-tree; each stick or branch whereof thrusts out on all sides round about sharp prickles, like iron nails, of three or four inches long: one of these very thorns I have lately seen in the repository at Gresham College. These sticks, or branches, being as big as a good canc, are plaited one very close to another; and

so, being fastened and tied to three or four upright spars, are made in the fashion of a door. This is hung upon a door-case some ten or twelve feet high, (so that they may, and do ride through upon elephants) made of three pieces of timber, like a gallows, after this manner Π the thorn-door hanging upon the transverse piece like a shop-window; and so they lift it up, or clap it down, as there is occasion, and tie it with a rope to a cross-bar.

But especially in all roads and passages from the city where the king now inhabits are very strict watches set, which will suffer none to pass not having a passport; which is the print of a seal in clay: it is given at the court to them that have license to go through the watches. The seals are different, according to the profession of the party: as to a soldier, the print of a man with a pike on his shoulder; to a labourer, a man with two bags hanging on each end of a pole upon his shoulder, which is the manner they commonly carry their loads; and to a white man, the passport is the print of a man with a sword by his side, and a hat on his head; and, so many men as there are in the company, so many prints there must be in the clay. There is not half the examination for those that come into the city, as for those that go out, whom they usually search to see what they carry with them. None to pass from the king's city without passports.

To speak now of their soldiery, their expeditions, and manner of fight. Besides the dissauvas, spoken of before, who are great generals, there are other great captains—as those they call mote-ralls; as much as to say scribes, because they keep the rolls or registers of certain companies of soldiers, each containing 970 men, who are under their command. Of these mote-ralls there Their soldiery.

are four principal; but, besides these, there are smaller commanders over soldiers, who have their places from the king, and are not under the command of the former great ones.

All men of arms wait at court.

All these, both commanders and common soldiers, must wait at the court; but with this difference: the great men must do it continually, each one having his particular watch appointed by the king; but the private soldiers take their turns of watching; and, when they go, they carry all their provisions, for the time of their stay, with them upon their backs. These soldiers are not listed, (listing soldiers being only upon extraordinary occasions) but are by succession, the son after the father: for which service they enjoy certain lands and inheritances, which is instead of wages or pay. This duty, if they omit or neglect, they lose or forfeit their inheritance: or, if they please to be released or discharged, they may, parting with their land; and then their commander placeth another in their room: but so long as the land lies void, he converts the profits to his own proper use; and he that after takes it, gives a bribe to the commander, who yet, nothwithstanding, will not permit him to hold it above two or three years, unless he renew his bribes.

The soldiers have lands allotted them instead of pay.

To prevent the soldiers from ploting.

The soldiers of the high lands, called Candy Uda, are dispersed all over the land; so that one scarcely knows the other, the king not suffering many neighbours and townsmen to be in one company; which hath always heretofore been so ordered for fear of conspiracies.

The manner of sending them out on expeditions.

When the king sends any of these commanders with their armies abroad to war, or otherwise, sometimes they see not his face,

but he sends out their orders to them by a messenger; sometimes admits them into his presence, and gives them their orders with his own mouth, but nothing in writing: and, when several of them are sent together upon any design, there is not any one appointed to be chief commander or general over the whole army; but each one, as being chief over his own men, disposeth and ordereth them according to his pleasure; the others do the like; which sometimes begets disagreement among themselves, and by that means their designs are frustrated: neither doth he like or approve, that the great commanders of his soldiers should be very intimate, or good friends, lest they should conspire against him, nor will he allow them to disagree in such a degree, that it be publicly known and observed.

The king requires all the captains singly to send him intelligence of their affairs.

And, when there is any tidings to send the king, they do not send in general, by consent, but each one sends particularly by himself. And their common custom and practice is to inform what they can one against another, thinking thereby to obtain the most favour and good will from the king; by this means, there can be nothing done or said, but he hath notice thereof.

When the war is finished, they may not return without order.

Being in this manner sent forth, they dare not return, although they have performed and finished the business they were sent upon, until he send a special order and command to recal them.

The condition of the common soldiers.

When the armies are sent abroad, as he doth send them very often against the Dutch, it goes very hard with the soldiers, who must carry their victuals and pots to dress it in upon their backs, besides their arms, which are swords, pikes, bows and arrows, and good guns. As for tents—for their armies always lie in the

fields, they carry tallipot leaves, which are very light and convenient, along with them; with these they make their tents, fixing sticks into the ground, and laying other pieces of wood overthwart, after the manner of the roof of an house, and so lay their leaves over all, to shoot the rains off: making these tents stronger or slighter, according to the time of their tarriance. And having spent what provisions they carried out with them, they go home to fetch more: so that after a month or two, a great part of the army is always absent.

He conceals his purpose when he sends out his army.

Whensoever the king sends his armies abroad upon any expedition, the watches beyond them are all secured immediately, to prevent any from passing to carry intelligence to the enemy. The soldiers themselves do not know the design they are sent upon, until they come there; none can know his intentions or meaning by his actions: for sometimes he sends commanders with their soldiers to lie in certain places in the woods until farther order, or until he send ammunition to them; and, perhaps, when they have laid there long enough, he sends for them back again: and, after this manner oftentimes, he catches the Hollanders before they be aware, to their great prejudice and damage: he cares not that his great men should be free spirited or valiant; if there be any better than the rest, them to be sure suddenly he cuts off, lest they might do him any mischief.

Great exploits done, and but little courage.

They work chiefly by stratagems.

In their war there is but little valour used, although they do accomplish many notable exploits; for all they do is by crafty stratagems: they will never meet their enemies in the field, to give them a repulse by battle and force of arms; neither is the enemy like to meet with any opposition at their first goings out to invade the king's coasts, the king's soldiers knowing the

adverse forces are at first wary and vigilant, as also well provided with all necessaries; but their usual practice is to waylay them, and stop up the ways before them; there being convenient places in all the roads, which they have contrived for such purposes: and, at these places the woods are not suffered to be felled, but kept to shelter them from the sight of their enemies. Here they lie lurking, and plant their guns between the rocks and trees, with which they do great damage to their enemies before they then are aware: nor can they suddenly rush in upon them, being so well guarded with bushes and rocks before them; through which, before their enemies can get, they flee, carrying their great guns upon their shoulders, and are gone into the woods, where it is impossible to find them, until they come themselves to meet them after the former manner.

Likewise, they prepare against the enemy's coming, great bushy trees, having them ready cut, hanging only by withs which grow in the wood; these, as they march along, they let fall among them with many shots and arrows.

Being sent upon any design, they are very circumspect to keep it hidden from the enemy's knowledge, by suffering only those to pass, who may make for their benefit and advantage; their great endeavour being to take their enemies unprovided and at unawares.

By the long wars first between them and the Portuguese, and since with the Hollander, they have had such ample experience, as hath much improved them in the art of war above what they were formerly; and many of the chief commanders and leaders of their armies are men which formerly served the Portu- They understand the manner of Christian armies.

guese against them; by which they come to know the disposition and discipline of Christian armies. Insomuch as they have given the Dutch several overthrows, and taken forts from them, which they had up in the country.

They seldom hazard a battle.

Heretofore for bringing the head of an enemy, the king used to gratify them with some reward, but now the fashion is almost out of use. The ordering of their battle is with great security, there being very few lost in fight: for if they be not almost sure to win the battle, they had rather not fight, than run any hazard of losing it.

If they prove unsuccessful, how he punishes them.

If his men do not successfully accomplish the design he sends them upon, to be sure they shall have a lusty piece of work given them, to take revenge on them: for not using their weapons well, he will exercise them with other tools, houghs, and pickaxes, about his palace; and, during the time they stay to work, they must bring their victuals with them, not having monies there to buy: they cannot carry for above one month; and, when their provisions are all spent, if they will have any more, they must go home and fetch them. But that is not permitted them without giving a fee to the governor or his overseer: neither can they go without his leave; for besides the punishment, the watches, which are in every road from the king's city, will stop and seize them.

CHAP. VII.

A Relation of the Rebellion made against the King.

A comet ushered in the rebellion.

FOR the conclusion of this part, it will not be improper to relate here a dangerous rising of the people against the king. It happened in the year 1664; about which time appeared a fearful blazing-star. Just at the instant of the rebellion, the star was right over our heads; and one thing I very much wondered at, which was, that whereas, before this rebellion, the tail stood away toward the westward, from which side the rebellion sprung; the very night after (for I very well observed it) the tail was turned and stood away toward the eastward, and by degrees it diminished quite away.

The intent of the conspirators.

At this time, I say, the people of this land, having been long and sore oppressed by this king's unreasonable and cruel government, had contrived a plot against him; which was, to assault the king's court in the night, and to slay him, and to make the prince, his son, king; he being then some twelve or fifteen years of age, who was then with his mother, the queen, in the city of Candy. At this time the king held his court in a city called Nillemby; the situation of which is far inferior to that of Candy, and as far beyond that of Digligy, where he now is. Nillemby lieth some fourteen miles southward of the city of Candy. In the place where this city stands, it is reported by tradition, an hare gave chase after a dog, upon which it was

concluded that place was fortunate, and so indeed it proved to the king. It is environed with hills and woods.

How the rebellion began.

The time appointed to put their design in action was the one-and-twentieth of December, 1664, about twelve in the night. And having gotten a select company of men, how many, well I know not, but as is supposed not above two hundred, neither needed they many here, having so many confederates in the court; in the dead of the night they came marching into the city. The watch was thought to be of their confederacy; but if he were not, it was not in his power to resist them. Howbeit afterwards, whether he were not, he was executed for it. The said men, being thus in the city, hastened and came down to the court, and fell upon the great men, which then laid without the palace upon watch; since which, by the king's order, they lie always within the palace; for they were well informed before who were for them, and who not. Many, who before were not entrusted to know of their design, were killed and wounded; and those that could, seeing the slaughter of others, got in unto the king, who was walled about with a clay-wall, thatched; that was all his strength: yet these people feared to assault him, laying still until the morning; at which time the king made way to flee, fearing to stay in his palace, endeavouring to get unto the mountains, and had not with him above fifty persons. There were horses went with him, but the ways were so bad, that he could not ride. They were fain to drive an elephant before him, to break the way through the woods, that the king with his followers might pass.

The king flies.

They pursue him faintly.

As he fled they pursued him, but at a great distance, fearing to approach within shot of him; for he wanted not for excellent

good fowling-pieces, which are made there; so he got safe upon a mountain, called Gauluda, some fifteen miles distant, where many of the inhabitants, that were near, resorted to him. Howbeit, had the people of the rebel party been resolute, who were the major part (almost all the land), this hill could not have secured him, but they might have driven him from thence; there being many ways by which they might have ascended. There is not far from hence a high and peaked hill, called Mondamounour, where there is but one way to get up, and that very steep; at the top are great stones hanging in chains, to let fall when need requireth. Had he fled hither, there had been no way to come at him; but he never will adventure to go where he may be stopped in.

The people having thus driven away the old king, marched away to the city of Candy, and proclaimed the prince king; giving out to us English, who were there, that what they had done, they had not done rashly, but upon good consideration, and with good advice; the king, by his evil government having occasioned it, who went about to destroy both them and their country: as in keeping ambassadors, disannulling of trade, detaining of all people that come upon his land, and killing of his subjects and their children, and not suffering them to enjoy nor to see their wives. And all this was contrary to reason; and, as they were informed, to the government of other countries.

They go to the prince and proclaim him king.

The prince being young and tender, and having never been out of the palace, nor ever seen any but those that attended on his person, as it seemed afterwards, was scared to see so many coming and bowing down to him, and telling him that he was

The carriage of the prince.

king, and his father was fled into the mountains: neither did he say or act any thing, as not owning the business, or else not knowing what to say or do. This much discouraged the rebels, to see they had no more thanks for their pains. And so all things stood until the five-and-twentieth of December, at which time they intended to march and fall upon the old king.

Upon the prince's flight the rebels scatter and run.

But in the interim, the king's sister flies away with the prince from the court into the country, near unto the king; which so amazed the rebels, that the money and cloth and plunder which they had taken, and were going to distribute to the strangers, to gain their good will and assistance, they scattered about and fled. Others of their company, seeing the business was overthrown, to make amends for their former fact, turned and fell upon their consorts, killing and taking prisoners all they could. The people were now all up in arms one against another, killing whom they pleased, only saying they were rebels, and taking their goods.

A great man declares for the king.

By this time a great man had drawn out his men, and stood in the field, and there turned and publicly declared for the old king: and so went to catch the rebels that were scattered abroad; who, when he understood that they were all fled, and no whole party or body left to resist him, marched into the city, killing all that he could catch.

For eight or ten days nothing but killing one another to approve themselves good subjects.

And so all revolted, and came back to the king again—whilst he only lay still upon his mountain. The king needed not to take care to catch or execute the rebels; for they themselves, out of their zeal to him, and to make amends for what was passed, imprisoned and killed all they met; the plunder being

their own. This continued for some eight or ten days; which the king hearing of, commanded to kill no more, but that whom they took they should imprison, until examination passed; which was not so much to save innocent persons from violence, as that he might have the rebels to torment them, and make them confess of their confederates—for he spared none that seemed guilty: some to this day lay chained in prison, being sequestered of all their estates, and beg for their living. One of the most noted rebels, called Ambom Wellaraul, he sent to Columba, to the Dutch, to execute, supposing they would invent new tortures for him, beyond what he knew of; but they, instead of executing him, cut off his chains, and kindly entertained him, and there he still is in the city of Columba, reserving him for some designs they may hereafter have against the country.

The king could but not be sensible, that it was his rigorous government that had occasioned this rebellion, yet amended it not in the least; but, on the contrary, like to Rehoboam, added yet more to the people's yoke: and, being thus safely reinstated in his kingdom again, and observing that the life of his son gave encouragement to the rebellion, resolved to prevent it for the future, by taking him away; which, upon the next opportunity, he did by poisoning him, which I have related before.

The king poisons his son to prevent a rebellion hereafter.

But one thing there is, that argues him guilty of imprudence and horrible ingratitude—that most of those that went along with him when he fled, of whose loyalty he had such ample experience, he hath since cut off; and that with extreme cruelty too.

His ingratitude.

Another comet, but without any bad effects following it.

In the year 1666, in the month of February, there appeared in this country another comet or stream in the west, the head end under the horizon, much resembling that which was seen in England in the year 1680, in December. The sight of this did much daunt both king and people, having but a year or two before felt the sad event of a blazing-star in this rebellion, which I have now related. The king sent men upon the highest mountains in the land, to look if they could perceive the head of it, which they could not, being still under the horizon. This continued visible about the space of one month; and, by that time it was so diminished, that it could not be seen: but there were no remarkable passages that ensued upon it.

PART III.

CHAP. I.

Concerning the Inhabitants of this Island.

We shall in this part speak of the inhabitants of this country, with their religion and customs, and other things belonging to them.

The several inhabitants of this island.

Besides the Dutch who possess, as I judge, about one fourth of the Island, there are Malabars, that are free denizens, and pay duty to the king for the land they enjoy, as the king's natural subjects do: there are also moors, who are like strangers, and hold no land, but live by carrying goods to the sea-ports, which are now in the Hollanders hands. The sea-ports are inhabited by a mixed people, Malabars and moors, and some that are black, who profess themselves Roman Catholics, and wear crosses, and use beads: some of these are under the Hollander, and pay toll and tribute to then

But I am to speak only of the natural proper people of the Island, which they call Chingulays.

The original of Chingulays.

I have asked them whence they derive themselves, but they could not tell. They say their land was first inhabited by devils, of which they have a long fable. I have heard a tradition from some Portuguese here, which was,—That an ancient king of China had a son, who, during his father's reign, proved so very harsh and cruel unto the people, that they, being afraid he might prove a tyrant if he came to the crown, desired the king to banish him, and that he might never succeed; this, that king, to please the people, granted; and so put him, with certain attendants, into a ship, and turned them forth unto the winds, to seek their fortune. The first shore they were cast upon was this Island, which they seated themselves on, and peopled it. But to me nothing is more improbable than this story, because this people and the Chinese have no agreement nor similitude in their features, nor language, nor diet: it is more probable they came from the Malabars; their country lying next, though they do resemble them little or nothing. I know no nation in the world do so exactly resemble the Chingulays as the people of Europe.

Wild men.

Of these natives there be two sorts, wild and tame: I will begin with the former. For, as in these woods there are wild beasts, so wild men also. The land of Bintan is all covered with mighty woods, filled with abundance of deer: in this land are many of these wild men; they call them Vaddahs, dwelling near no other inhabitants: they speak the Chingulay's language; they kill deer, and dry the flesh over the fire, and the people of the country come and buy it of them: they never

A Vadda or Wild Man.

London. Published May 10th 1816. by J. Newman

till any ground for corn, their food being only flesh; they are very expert with their bows: they have a little axe, which they stick in by their sides, to cut honey out of hollow trees; some few, which are near inhabitants, have commerce with other people: they have no towns nor houses, only live by the waters under a tree, with some boughs cut, and laid round about them, to give notice when any wild beasts come near, which they may hear by their rustling and trampling upon them. Many of these habitations we saw when we fled through the woods; but, God be praised, the Vaddahs were gone.

Some of the tamer sort of these men are in a kind of subjection to the king; for if they can be found, though it must be with a great search in the woods, they will acknowledge his officers, and bring to them elephants' teeth, and honey, and wax, and deer's flesh; but the others, in lieu thereof, do give them as much in arrows, cloth, &c. fearing lest they should otherwise appear no more. By an acknowledgement to the king.

It hath been reported to me by many people, that the wilder sort of them, when they want arrows, will carry their load of flesh in the night, and hang it up in a smith's shop, also a leaf cut in the form they will have their arrows made, and hang by it; which, if the smith do make according to their pattern, they will requite, and bring him more flesh; but, if he make them not, they will do him a mischief one time or other by shooting in the night. If the smith make the arrows, he leaves them in the same place where the Vaddahs hung the flesh. How they bespeak arrows to be made them.

Formerly, in this king's reign, these wild men used to lie in

They violently took away carriers goods.

wait, to catch carriers people, that went down with oxen to trade at the sea-ports, carrying down betel nuts, and bringing up cloth, and would make them to give them such things as they required, or else threatening to shoot them. They, fearing their lives, and not being able to resist, were fain to give them what they asked; or else most certainly they would have had both life and goods too: at which, this king sent many commanders, with soldiers, to catch them, which at length they did; but had not some of themselves proved false to them, being encouraged by large promises, they could never have taken them. The chief being brought before the king, promising amendment, were pardoned; but sent into other woods, with a command not to return thither any more, neither to use their former courses: but soon after their departure, they forsook those woods they were put into, and came to their old haunt again, falling to their former course of life: this the king hearing of, and how they had abused his pardon, gave command either to bring them dead or alive. These Vaddahs knowing now there could be no hope of pardon, would not be taken alive, but were shot by the treachery of their own men. The heads of two of the chiefest were hanged on trees by the city: and ever since they have not presumed to disturb the country, nor the king them, he only desiring their quiet, and not to be against him.

Hourly Vaddahs trade with the people.

About Hourly, the remotest of the king's dominions, there are many of them, that are pretty tame, and come and buy and sell among the people. The king once having occasion of an hasty expedition against the Dutch, the governor summoned them all in to go with him, which they did; and with their bows and arows did as good service as any of the rest; but, afterwards, when they returned home again, they removed far-

One made to serve the king.

ther into the woods, and would be seen no more, for fear of being afterwards prest again to serve the king.

They never cut their hair, but tie it up on their crowns in a bunch. The cloth they use is not broad nor large, but scarcely enough to cover their buttocks. The wilder and tamer sort of them do both observe a religion; they have a god peculiar to themselves. The tamer do build temples; the wild only bring their sacrifice under trees; and, while it is offering, dance round it, both men and women.

Their habit and religion.

They have their bounds in the woods among themselves, and one company of them is not to shoot nor gather honey or fruit beyond those bounds: near the borders stood a jack tree; one Vaddah being gathering some fruit from this tree, another Vaddah of the next division saw him, and told him he had nothing to do to gather jacks from that tree, for that belonged to them: they fell to words, and from words to blows, and one of them shot the other; at which more of them met, and fell to skirmishing so briskly with their bows and arrows, that twenty or thirty were left dead upon the spot.

A skirmish about their bounds.

They are so curious of their arrows, that no smith can please them. The king once, to gratify them for a great present they brought him, gave all of them of his best made arrow-blades, which, nevertheless, would not please their humour; for they went all of them to a rock by a river, and ground them into another form. The arrows they use are of a different fashion from all other, and the Chingulays will not use them.

Curious in their arrows.

How they preserve their flesh. They have a peculiar way by themselves of preserving flesh: they cut a hollow tree and put honey in it, and then fill it up with flesh, and stop it up with clay: which lies for a reserve, to eat in time of want.

How they take elephants. It has usually been told me, that their way of catching elephants is, that when the elephant lies asleep, they strike their axe into the sole of his foot; and, so laming him, he is in their power to take him—but I take this for a fable; because I know the sole of the elephant's foot is so hard, that no axe can pierce it at a blow; and he is so wakeful, that they can have no opportunity to do it.

The dowry they give. Their disposition. For portions with their daughters in marriage they give hunting dogs. They are reported to be courteous. Some of the Chingulays, in discontent, will leave their houses and friends, and go and live among them, where they are civilly entertained: the tamer sort of them, as hath been said, will sometimes appear, and hold some kind of trade with the tame inhabitants; but the wilder, called Ramba Vaddahs, never shew themselves.

A description of a Chingulay. But to come to the civilized inhabitants, whom I am chiefly to treat of; they are a people proper and very well-favoured, beyond all people that I have seen in India, wearing a cloth about their loins, and a doublet, after the English fashion, with little skirts, buttoned at the wrists, and gathered at the shoulders like a shirt; on their heads a red Tunis cap; or, if they have none, another cap, with flaps of the fashion of their country, described in the next chapter, with a handsome short hanger by

their side, and a knife sticking in their bosom on the right side.

They are very active and nimble in their limbs, and very ingenious; for, except iron-work, all other things they have need of, they make and do themselves; insomuch, that they all build their own houses. They are crafty and treacherous, not to be trusted upon any protestations—for their manner of speaking is very smooth and courteous; insomuch, that they who are unacquainted with their dispositions and manners, may easily be deceived by them: for they make no account nor conscience of lying, neither is it any shame or disgrace to them, if they be catched in telling lies, it is so customary. They are very vigilant and wakeful, sufficed with very little sleep; very hardy, both for diet and weather—very proud and self-conceited. They take something after the Bramins, with whom they scruple not both to marry and eat; in both which, otherwise, they are exceeding shy and cautious: for there being many ranks or casts among them, they will not match with any inferior to themselves, nor eat meat dressed in any house, but in those only that are of as good a cast or race as themselves; and that which any one hath left, none but those that are near of kin will eat. Their disposition.

They are not very malicious one towards another; and their anger doth not last long; seldom or never any bloodshed among them in their quarrels: it is not customary to strike, and it is very rare that they give a blow so much as to their slaves, who may very familiarly talk and discourse with their masters: they are very near and covetous, and will pinch their own bellies for

profit: very few spendthrifts or bad husbands are to be met with here.

The inhabitants of the mountains differ from those of the low lands.

The natures of the inhabitants of the mountains and low lands are very different; they of the low lands are kind, pitiful, helpful, honest, and plain, compassionating strangers, which we found by our own experience among them: they of the uplands are ill-natured, false, unkind, though outwardly fair, and seemingly courteous, and of more complaisant carriage, speech, and better behaviour, than the low-landers.

Their good opinion of virtue, though they practice it not.

Of all vices, they are least addicted to stealing, the which they do exceedingly hate and abhor; so that there are but few robberies committed among them. They do much extol and commend chastity, temperance, and truth in words and actions, and confess that it is out of weakness and infirmity, that they cannot practice the same, acknowledging that the contrary vices are to be abhorred, being abomination both in the sight of God and man; they do love and delight in those men that are most devout and precise in their matters: as for bearing witness for confirmation in any matters of doubt, a Christian's word will be believed and credited far beyond their own, because, they think, they make more conscience of their words.

Superstitions.

They are very superstitious in making observations of any little accidents, as omens portending good to them or evil; sneezing they reckon to import evil; so that if any chance to sneeze when he is going about his business, he will stop, accounting he shall have ill success if he proceeds: and none may sneeze, cough, nor spit in the king's presence, either because of the ill boding of those actions, or the rudeness of them, or both.

There is a little creature, much like a lizard, which they look upon altogether as a prophet: whatsoever work or business they are going about, if he cries, they will cease for a space, reckoning, he tells them there is a bad planet rules at that instant. They take great notice in a morning, at their first going out, who first appears in their sight; and, if they see a white man, or a big-bellied woman, they hold it fortunate; and, to see any decrepit or deformed people, as unfortunate.

When they travel together, a great many of them, the roads are so narrow, that but one can go abreast; and, if there be twenty of them, there is but one argument or matter discoursed of among them all from the first to the last; and so they go talking along all together, and every one carrieth his provisions on his back for his whole journey. How they travel.

In short, in carriage and behaviour they are very grave and stately, like unto the Portugals, in understanding quick and apprehensive, in design subtile and crafty, in discourse courteous, but full of flatteries, naturally inclined to temperance, both in meat and drink, but not to chastity, near and provident in their families, commending good husbandry; in their dispositions not passionate, neither hard to be reconciled again when angry; in their promises very unfaithful, approving lying in themselves, but misliking it in others; delighting in sloth, deferring labour till urgent necessity constrain them, neat in apparel, nice in eating, and not much given to sleep. A brief character of them.

As for the women, their habit is a waistcoat of white calico covering their bodies, wrought into flourishes with blue and red, the cloth hanging longer or shorter below their knees, according The women, their habit and nature.

to their quality, a piece of silk flung over their heads, jewels in their ears, ornaments about their necks, and arms, and middles. They are in their gait and behaviour very high, stately in their carriage, after the Portugal manner, of whom I think they have learned; yet they hold it no scorn to admit the meanest to come to speech of them. They are very thrifty, and it is a disgrace to them to be prodigal, and their pride and glory to be accounted near and saving: and to praise themselves, they will sometimes say, that scraps and parings will serve them, that the best is for their husbands. The men are not jealous of their wives; for the greatest ladies in the land will frequently talk and discourse with any men they please, although their husbands be in presence. And, although they be so stately, they will lay their hand to such work as is necessary to be done in the house, notwithstanding they have slaves and servants enough to do it. Let this suffice concerning the nature and manners of the people in general: the ensuing chapters will be spent in more particular accounts of them; and, because they stand much upon their birth and gentility, and much of what is afterwards to be related hath reference unto it, I shall speak of the various ranks and degrees of men among them.

CHAP. II.

Concerning their different Honours, Ranks, and Qualities.

AMONG this people there are divers and sundry casts or degrees of quality, which is not according to their riches or places of honour the king promotes them to, but according to their descent and blood: and, whatsoever this honour is, be it higher or lower, it remains hereditary from generation to generation. They abhor to eat or drink, or intermarry, with any of inferior quality to themselves. The signs of higher or meaner ranks, are wearing of doublets, or going bare-backed without them; the length of their cloth below their knees; their sitting on stools, or on blocks or mats spread on the ground, and in their caps.

How they distinguish themselves according to their qualities.

They are especially careful in their marriages, not to match with any inferior cast, but always each within their own rank. Riches cannot prevail with them in the least to marry with those by whom they must eclipse and stain the honour of their family; on which they set a higher price than on their lives. And, if any of the females should be so deluded as to commit folly with one beneath herself, if ever she should appear in the sight of her friends, they would certainly kill her—there being no other way to wipe off the dishonour she hath done the family, but by her own blood.

They never marry beneath their rank.

In case a man lies with a woman of inferior rank.

Yet for the men it is something different: it is not accounted any shame or fault for a man of the highest sort to lay with a woman far inferior to himself; nay, of the very lowest degree, provided he neither eats nor drinks with her, nor takes her home to his house as a wife: but if he should, which I never knew done, he is punished by the magistrate, either by fine or imprisonment, or both; and also, he is utterly excluded from his family, and accounted thenceforward of the same rank and quality that the woman is of whom he hath taken. If the woman be married already, with whom the man of better rank lies, and the husband come and catch them together, how low soever the one be, and high the other, he may kill him, and her too, if he please.

And thus by marrying constantly each rank within itself, the descent and dignity thereof is preserved for ever; and whether the family be high or low it never alters. But to proceed to the particular ranks and degrees of men among them.

Their noblemen.

The highest are their noblemen, called hondrews; which I suppose comes from the word homdrewmé, a title given to the king, signifying majesty; these being honoured people. 'Tis out of this sort alone that the king chooseth his great officers, and whom he employs in his court, and appoints for governors over his country. Riches are not here valued, nor make any the more honourable; for many of the lower sorts do far exceed these hondrews in estates; but it is the birth and parentage that ennobleth.

How distinguished from others.

These are distinguished from others by their names, and the wearing of their cloth, which the men wear half down their

legs, and the women to their heels; one end of which cloth the women fling over their shoulders, and with the very end carelessly cover their breasts: whereas, the other sort of women must go naked from the waist upwards, and their clothes not hang down much below their knees, except it be for cold; for then either women or men may throw their cloth over their backs. But then they do excuse it to the hondrews, when they meet them, saying—"Excuse me, it is for warmth."

They are distinguished also by their own country caps, which are of the fashion of mitres; there are two flaps tied up over the top of the crown. If they be hondrews, their caps are all of one colour, either white or blue; if of inferior quality, then the cap and the flaps on each side be of different colours, whereof the flaps are always red. The distinction by caps.

Of these hondrews there be two sorts—the one somewhat inferior to the other as touching marriage; but not in other things. The greatest part of the inhabitants of the land are of the degree of hondrews. Of the hondrews, two sorts.

All Christians, either white or black, are accounted equal with the hondrews. The whites are generally honourable; only it is an abatement of their honour that they eat beef, and wash not after they have been at stool; which things are reckoned with this people an abomination.

Among the noblemen may be mentioned an honour, that the king confers, like unto knighthood; it ceaseth in the person's death, and is not hereditary. The king confers it by putting about their heads a piece of silk, or ribbon, embroidered with An honour like unto knighthood.

gold and silver, and bestowing a title upon them. They are styled mundianna: there are not above two or three of them now in the realm living.

Goldsmiths, blacksmiths carpenters, &c.

Next after the degree of hondrews may be placed goldsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, and painters; who are all of one degree and quality. But the hondrews will not eat with them: however, in apparel there is no difference; and they are also privileged to sit on stools, which none of the inferior ranks of people, hereafter mentioned, may do. Heretofore they were accounted almost equal to the inferior sort of hondrews, and they would eat in these artificers houses, but afterwards they were degraded upon this occasion:—It chanced some hondrews came to a smith's shop to have their tools mended: when it came to be dinner time, the smith leaves work, and goes into his house to dine, leaving the hondrews in his shop, who had waited there a great while to have their work done. Now, whether the smith fearing lest their hunger might move them to be so impudent or desperate as to partake with him of his dinner, clapt to his door after him; which was taken so heinously by those hungry people in his shop, that immediately they all went and declared abroad what an affront the smith had put upon them. Whereupon it was decreed and confirmed, that for ever after all the people of that rank should be deposed, and deprived of the honour of having the hondrews to eat in their houses; which decree hath stood in force ever since.

The privilege and state of the smiths.

Nevertheless these smiths take much upon them, especially those who are the king's smiths; that is, such who live in the king's towns, and do his work. These have this privilege, that

each has a parcel of towns belonging to them, whom none but they are to work for. The ordinary work they do for them is mending their tools, for which every man pays to his smith a certain rate of corn in harvest time, according to ancient custom; but, if any hath work extraordinary, as making new tools or the like, besides the aforesaid rate of corn, he must pay him for it. In order to this, they come in an humble manner to the smith with a present, being rice, hens, and other sorts of provision, or a bottle of rack, desiring him to appoint his time, when they shall come to have their work done; which, when he hath appointed them, they come at the set time, and bring both coals and iron with them. The smith sits very gravely upon his stool, his anvil before him, with his left hand towards the forge, and little hammer in his right. They themselves, who come with their work, must blow the bellows; and, when the iron is to be beaten with the great maul, he holds it, still sitting upon his stool, and they must hammer it themselves, he only with his little hammer knocking it sometimes into fashion; and, if it be any thing to be filed, he makes them go themselves and grind it upon a stone, that his labour of filing may be the less; and, when they have done it as well as they can, he goes over it again with his file, and finisheth it. That which makes these smiths thus stately is, because the towns-people are compelled to go to their own smith, and none else; and, if they should, that smith is liable to pay damages that should do work for any in another smith's jurisdiction.

All that are of any craft or profession, are accounted of an inferior degree, as elephant catchers, and keepers, who are reckoned equal with the smiths, &c. aforesaid, though they neither eat nor marry together; and these may wear apparel Craftsmen.

as do the hondrews, and sit on stools, but the hondrews eat not with them.

No artificers ever change their trade from generation to generation; but the son is the same as was his father, and the daughter marries only to those of the same craft: and her portion is such tools as are of use, and do belong unto the trade; though the father may give over and above what he pleaseth.

Barbars. Next are the barbars; both the women and men may wear doublets, but not sit on stools, neither will any eat with them.

Potters. Potters yet more inferior, may not wear any doublets, nor their cloth much below the knee, nor sit on stools, neither will any eat with them: but they have this privilege; because they make the pots, that when they are athirst, being at a hondrew's house, they may take his pot, which hath a pipe to it, and pour the water into their mouths themselves; which none other of these inferior degrees may be admitted to do—but they must hold their hands to their mouths and gape, and the hondrews themselves will pour the water in. The potters were at first denied this honour, upon which they jointly agreed to make pots with pipes only for themselves, and would sell none to the hondrews that wanted; whereat being constrained, they condescended to grant them the honour above other inferior people, that they should have the favour to drink out of these spouts at their houses.

Washers. The next are the ruddaughs, washers. Of these there are great numbers. They wash cloths for all people to the degree of a potter; but for none below that degree. Their usual pos-

ture is to carry a cloth on their shoulder, both men and women; they use lye in their washing, setting a pot over the fire, holding seven or eight gallons of water, and lay the foul clothes on the top; and the steam of the water goes into the clothes and scalds them: then they take them and carry them to a river side, and instead of rubbing them with their hands, flap them against the rock, and they become very clean; nor doth this tear the clothes at all, as they order it.

Another rank after these are the hungrams, or jaggory-makers; though none will eat with them, yet it is lawful to buy and eat the jaggory they make (which is a kind of sugar), but nothing else. Jaggory-makers.

Another sort among them is the poddah. These are of no trade or craft, but are husbandmen and soldiers, yet are inferior to all that have been named hitherto; for what reason neither I, nor, I think, themselves can tell; only thus it falls to them by succession from their predecessors, and so will ever remain. The poddah.

After these are the weavers; who, beside their trade, which is weaving cloth, are astrologers, and tell the people good days and good seasons; and, at the birth of a child, write for them an account of the day, time, and planet, it was born in and under. These accounts they keep with great care all their life-time; by which they know their age, and what success or evil shall befal them. Weavers.

These people also beat drums, and play on pipes, and dance in the temples of their gods, and at their sacrifices: they eat and carry away all such victuals as are offered to their idols; both

which to do and take, is accounted to belong to people of a very low degree and quality: these also will eat dead cows.

Basket-makers.

Next to the weavers are the kiddeas or basket-makers, who make fans to fan corn, and baskets of canes, and lace, bedsteads, and stools.

Mat-makers

Then follow the kirinerahs, whose trade is to make fine mats. These men may not wear any thing on their heads—the women of none of these sorts ever do. Of these two last there are but few.

The lower ranks may not assume the habit or names of the higher.

All below the couratto or elephant-men, may not sit on stools, nor wear doublets, except the barbar, nor wear the cloth low down their legs: neither may any of these ranks of people, either man or woman, except the potter and the washer, wear the end of their cloth to cover their bodies, unless they be sick or cold: neither may they presume to be called by the names that the hondrews are called by; nor may they, where they are not known, change themselves by pretending, or seeming to be, higher than nature hath made them: and I think they never do, but own themselves in the rank and quality wherein they were born, and demean themselves accordingly.

All outlandish people are esteemed above the inferior ranks. The names of the hondrews always end in oppow, of others below the degree of the elephant people in adgah.

Slaves.

The slaves may make another rank, for whose maintenance their masters allow them land and cattle, which many of them do so improve, that, except in dignity, they are not far behind

their masters, only they are not permitted to have slaves; their masters will not diminish or take away ought, that by their diligence and industry, they have procured, but approve of it, as being persons capable to repose trust in: and, when they do buy, or otherwise get a new slave, they presently provide him a wife, and so put him forward to keep house, and settle, that he may not think of running away. Slaves that are born of hondrew parents, retain the honour of their degree.

There is one sort of people more, and they are the beggars; who, for their transgression, as hereafter shall be shewn, have by former kings been made so low and base, that they can be no lower or baser; and they must and do give such titles and respects to all other people, as are due from other people to kings and princes. Beggars.

The predecessors of these people, from whom they sprang, were dodda vaddahs, which signifies hunters; to whom it did belong to catch and bring venison for the king's table: but, instead of venison they brought man's flesh, unknown; which the king liking so well, commanded to bring him more of the same sort of venison: the king's barbar chanced to know what flesh it was, and discovered it to him; at which the king was so enraged, that he accounted death too good for them; and to punish only those persons that had so offended, not a sufficient recompense for so great an affront and injury as he had sustained by them: forthwith, therefore, he established a decree— that all, both great and small, that were of that rank or tribe, should be expelled from dwelling among the inhabitants of the land, and not be admitted to use or enjoy the benefit of any means, or ways, or callings whatsoever, to provide themselves The reason they became so base and mean a people.

sustenance; but, that they should beg from generation to generation, from door to door, through the kingdom; and to be looked upon and esteemed by all people to be so base and odious, as not possibly to be more.

And they are to this day so detestable to the people, that they are not permitted to fetch water out of their wells; but do take their water out of holes or rivers: neither will any touch them, lest they should be defiled.

And thus they go a begging in whole troops, both men, women, and children, carrying both pots and pans, hens and chickens, and whatsoever they have, in baskets hanging on a pole, at each end one, upon their shoulders. The women never carry any thing; but, when they come to any house to beg, they dance and shew tricks, while the men beat drums: they will turn brass basons on one of their fingers, twirling it round very swift, and wonderfully strange; and they will toss up balls into the air one after another, to the number of nine, and catch them as they fall; and, as fast as they do catch them, still they toss them up again: so that there are always seven up in the air. Also, they will take beads of several colours, and of one size, and put them into their mouths, and then take them one by one out of their mouths again, each colours by themselves; and, with this behaviour, and the high and honourable titles which they give, as to men, your honour, and your majesty; and to women, queens, countesses; and to white men, white of the royal blood, &c. they do beg for their living, and that with so much importunity, as if they had a patent for it from the king, and will not be denied; pretending that it was so ordered and decreed, that by this very means they should be

maintained; and, unless they mean to perish with hunger, they cannot accept of a denial. The people, on the other hand, cannot without horrible shame lift up their hand against them to strike or thrust them away; so, rather than to be troubled with their importunity, they will relieve them.

And thus they live, building small hovels in remote places, highways, under trees: and all the land being, as it were of necessity, contributors towards their maintenance, these beggars live without labour, as well, or better, than the other sorts of people; being free from all sorts of service and duties, which all other are compelled to perform for the king:—of them it is only required to make ropes of such cow-hides, as die of themselves, to catch and tie elephants with: by which they have another privilege, to claim the flesh thereof for themselves from the weavers; who, when they meet with any dead cows, use to cut them up and eat them; but, if any of these roudeahs, beggars, see them, they will run to them, and drive them away, offering to beat them with the poles, whereon they carry their baskets; saying to them,—"How can we perform the king's service to make ropes of the hide, if the weavers hack and spoil it?" telling them also—That it is beneath such honourable people as they, to eat such unclean and polluted flesh. By these words, and the fear the weavers are in to be touched by that base people, than which nothing could be more infamous, they are glad to get them away as fast as they can.

They live well.

Their contest with the weavers about dead cows.

These men being so low, that nothing they can do can make them lower, it is not unusual with them to lay with their daughters, or for the son to lay with his mother, as if there were no consanguinity among them.

Incest common among them.

A punishment to deliver noble women to these beggars.

Many times when the king cuts off great and noble men, against whom he is highly incensed, he will deliver their daughters and wives unto this sort of people, reckoning it, as they also account it, to be far worse punishment than any kind of death: this kind of punishment being accounted such horrible cruelty, the king doth usually of his clemency shew them some kind of mercy; and, pitying their distress, commands to carry them to a river side, and there to deliver them into the hands of those, who are far worse than the executioners of death: from whom, if these ladies please to free themselves, they are permitted to leap into the river and be drowned; the which some sometimes will choose to do, rather than to consort with them.

Some of these beggars keep cattle and shoot deer.

There are some of this sort of people which dwell in remote parts, distant from any towns, and keep cattle, and sell them to the Chingulays; also shoot deer, and sell them where they fall in the woods; for, if they should but touch them, none would buy them.

Refuse meat dressed in a barbar's house.

The barbar's information having been the occasion of all this misery upon this people, they in revenge thereof abhor to eat what is dressed in the barbar's house even to this day.

CHAP. III.

Of their Religion, Gods, Temples, Priests.

TO take a more particular view of the state of this country, we shall, first, give some account of their religion, as it justly requires the first place, and then of their other secular concerns.

Under their religion will come to be considered their gods, their temples, their priests, their festivals, sacrifices, and worship, and their doctrines and opinions; and whatsoever other matters occur, that may concern this subject.

The religion of their country is idolatry. There are many both gods and devils, which they worship, known by particular names, which they call them by. They do acknowledge one to be the Supreme, whom they call Ossa polla maupt Dio, which signifieth the Creator of heaven and earth; and it is he also who still ruleth and governeth the same. This great Supreme God, they hold, sends forth other deities to see his will and pleasure executed in the world; and these are the petty and inferior gods. These, they say, are the souls of good men, who formerly lived upon the earth. There are devils also, who are the inflicters of sickness and misery upon them; and these they hold to be the souls of evil men. Their religion, their gods.

They worship the God that saves souls.

There is another great god, whom they call Buddou, unto whom the salvation of souls belongs. Him they believe once to have come upon the earth; and, when he was here, that he did usually sit under a large shady tree, called bogahah: which trees ever since are accounted holy, and under which, with great solemnities, they do to this day celebrate the ceremonies of his worship. He departed from the earth from the top of the highest mountain on the Island, called Pico Adam; where there is an impression like a foot, which they say is his, as hath been mentioned before.

The sun and moon they repute deities.

The sun and moon they seem to have an opinion to be gods, from the names they sometimes call them by. The sun, in their language, is irri, and the moon, handa: to which they will sometimes add the title haumi, which is a name they give to persons of the greatest honour; and Dio, that signifies God: saying, Irrihaumi, irridio: handahaumi, handa Dio. But to the stars they give not these titles.

Some of their temples of exquisite work

The pagodas, or temples of their gods, are so many, that I cannot number them. Many of them are of rare and exquisite work, built of hewn stone, engraven with images and figures; but by whom, and when, I could not attain to know, the inhabitants themselves being ignorant therein: but, sure I am, they were built by far more ingenious artificers than the Chingulays that now are on the land; for the Portuguese, in their invasions, have defaced some of them, which there is none found that hath skill enough to repair to this day.

The form of their temples.

The fashion of these pagodas are different: some, to wit those that were anciently built, are of better workmanship, as

was said before; but those lately erected are far inferior, made only with clay and sticks, and no windows. Some, viz. those belonging to the Buddou, are in the form of a pigeon-house, four square, one story high, and some two; the room above has its idols, as well as that below: some of them are tiled, and some thatched.

The shape of their idols.

In them are idols and images, most monstrous to behold, some of silver, some of brass, and other metals: and also painted sticks, and targets, and most strange kinds of arms, as bills, arrows, spears, and swords. But these arms are not in the Buddou's temples, he being for peace: therefore there are in his temples only images of men, cross-legged, with yellow coats on, like the gonni priests; their hair frizled, and their hands before them, like women: and these, they say, are the spirits of holy men departed. Their temples are adorned with such things as the people's ability and poverty can afford; accounting it the highest point of devotion, bountifully to dedicate such things unto their gods, which in their estimation are most precious.

They worship not the idol, but whom it represents.

As for these images, they say they do not own them to be gods themselves, but only figures, representing their gods to their memories; and, as such, they give to them honour and worship.

The revenues of the temples, and the honours thereof.

Women, having their natural infirmities upon them, may not, neither dare they presume, to come near the temples or houses of their gods: nor the men, if they come out of houses where such women are.

They are dedicated to gods.

Unto each of these pagodas there are great revenues of land belonging, which have been allotted to them by former kings, according to the state of the kingdom: but they have much impaired the revenues of the crown; there being rather more towns belonging to the church than unto the king. These estates of the temples are to supply a daily charge they are at; which is to prepare victuals, or sacrifices, to set before the idols. They have elephants also, as the king has, which serve them for state. Their temples have all sorts of officers belonging to them, as the palace hath.

Most of these pagodas are dedicated to the name and honour of those whom they call dio, or gods: to whom, they say, belong the government on earth, and all things appertaining to this life.

Private chapels.

Besides these public temples, many people do build in their yards private chapels, which are little houses, like to closets; sometimes so small, that they are not above two feet in bigness, but built upon a pillar, three or four feet from the ground, wherein they do place a certain image of the Buddou, that they may have him near them, and to testify their love and service to him: which they do by lighting up candles and lamps in his house, and laying flowers every morning before him; and at sometime they boil victuals, and lay it before him: and, the more they perform such ceremonious service to him here, the more shall be their reward hereafter.

All blessings and good success, they say, come from the hand of God; but sickness and diseases proceed from the devil: not that of himself he hath such absolute power, but as servants

Smith, sc. 63 H. Holborn

A Tirunanxy or Chief Priest

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have power, license, and authority from their masters, so they from God.

But the gods will require some to wait at their altars, and the temples men to officiate in them; their priests therefore fall under the next consideration. Of these there are three sorts, according to the three differences of gods among them. And their temples are also called by three different names. The priests.

The first, and highest order of priests, are the tirinanxes, who are the priests of the Buddou god. Their temples are styled vihars. There is a religious house in the city of Digligy, where they dwell, and assemble and consult together about their affairs; which being the meeting place of such holy men, they call it a vihar: also they admit none to come into their order but persons of the most noble birth, and that have learning, and be well bred: of such they admit many. But they do not presently, upon their admission, arrive unto the high degree of a tirinanx; for of these there are but three or four, and they are chose out of all the rest of the order unto this degree. These tirinanxes only live in the vihar, and enjoy great revenues; and are, as it were, the superiors of all the priests, and are made by the king. The first order of them.

Many of the vihars are endowed, and have farms belonging to them; and these tirinanxes are the landlords, unto whom the tenants come at a certain time, and pay in their rents. These farmers live the easiest of any people in the land, for they have nothing to do but at those set times to bring in their dues, and so depart, and to keep in repair certain little vihars in the country. So that the rest of the Chingulays envy them, and say

of them, "Though they live easy in this world, they cannot escape unpunished in the life to come, for enjoying the Buddou's land, and doing him so little service for it."

The habit of these priests

All the rest of the order are called gonni. The habit is the same to the whole order, both tirinanxes and gonni. It is a yellow coat, gathered together about their waist, and comes over the left shoulder, girt about with a belt of fine packthread: their heads are shaved, and they go bare-headed, and carry in their hands a round fan, with a wooden handle, which is to keep the sun off their hands.

Their privileges.

They have great benefit and honour: they enjoy their own lands without paying scot or lot, or any taxes to the king. They are honoured in such a measure, that the people, wherever they go, bow down to them as they do to their gods, but themselves bow to none. They have the honour of carrying the tallipot with the broad end over their heads foremost, which none but the king does: wheresoever they come, they have a mat and a white cloth laid over upon a stool for them to sit upon, which is also an honour used only to the king.

What they are prohibited.

They are debarred from laying their hands to any manner of work; and may not marry nor touch women, nor eat but one meal a day, unless it be fruit and rice and water, that they may eat morning and evening; nor must they drink wine. They will eat any lawful flesh that is dressed for them, but they will have no hand in the death of it; as to give order or consent to the killing of it.

They may lay down their order, if they please, which some

do, that they may marry. This is done by pulling off their coat, and flinging it into a river, and washing themselves, head and body, and then they become like other laymen.

There is a benefit that accrueth to them; which is, when any man is minded to provide for his soul, they bring one of these priests under a cloth, held up by four men, unto his house, with drums and pipes, and great solemnity, which only can be done unto the king besides. Then they give him great entertainment, and bestow gifts on him according as they are able; which, after he hath tarried a day or more, they carry for him, and conduct him home with the like solemnities as he came: but the night that he tarries with them he must sing bonna, that is, matter concerning their religion, out of a book made of the leaves of tallipot; and then he tells them the meaning of what he sings, it being in an eloquent style, which the vulgar people do not understand.

When any is religiously disposed, these priests sent for in great ceremony.

Some of these priests, against whom the king took displeasure, were beheaded; afterwards cast into the river; which thing caused amazement in all the people, how the king durst presume to do it towards such holy and reverend persons.

None ever used violence toward them before the present king.

And none heretofore, by any former kings, have ever been so served; being reputed and called sons of Buddou. But the reason the king slew them was because they conspired in the rebellion: they threw aside their habits, and got their swords by their sides.

The second order of priests are those called koppuhs, who are the priests that belong to the temples of the other gods:

The second order of their priests

their temples are called dewals. These are not distinguished by any habit from the rest of the people; no, nor when they are at their worship; only they wear clean clothes, and wash themselves before they go to their service. These are taken out from among the hondrews: they enjoy a piece of land that belongs to the dewal where they officiate, and that is all their benefit, unless they steal somewhat that is dedicated to the gods. They follow their husbandry and employments as other men do; but only when the times of worship are, which usually is every morning and evening, oftener or seldomer, according as the revenue will hold out that belongs to that temple, whereof each is priest. The service is, that when the boiled rice and other victuals are brought to the temple door by others, he takes it, and presents it before the idol: whence, after it hath stood awhile, he brings it out again, and then the drummers, pipers, and other servants that belong to the temple, eat it. These gods have never any flesh brought in sacrifice to them, but any thing else.

The third order.

The third order of priests are the jaddeses, priests of the spirits, which they call dayautaus. Their temples are called covels, which are inferior to the other temples, and have no revenues belonging to them. A man, piously disposed, builds a small house at his own charge, which is the temple, and himself becomes priest thereof. Therein are bills, and swords, and arrows, and shields, and images, painted upon the walls like fierce men. This house is seldom called God's house, but most usually jacco, the devils. Upon some extraordinary festival to the jacco, the jaddese shaves off all his beard.

When they are sick, they dedicate a red cock to the devil;

which they do after this manner. They send for the jaddese to their house, and give him a red cock chicken, which he takes up in his hand, and holds an arrow with it, and dedicates it to the god, by telling him, that if he restore the party to his health, that cock is given to him, and shall be dressed and sacrificed to him in his covel. They then let the cock go among the rest of the poultry, and keep it afterwards, it may be, a year or two; and then they carry it to the temple, or the priest comes for it: for sometimes he will go round about, and fetch a great many cocks together that have been dedicated, telling the owners that he must make a sacrifice to the god; though, it may be, when he hath them, he will go to some other place and convert them into money for his own use, as I myself can witness; we could buy three of them for four-pence halfpenny.

How they dedicate a red cock to the devil.

When the people are minded to inquire any thing of their gods, the priests take up some of the arms and instruments of the gods, that are in the temples upon his shoulder; and then he either feigns himself to be mad, or really is so, which the people call pissowetitch; and then the spirit of the gods is in him, and whatsoever he pronounceth is looked upon as spoken by God himself, and the people will speak to him as if it were the very person of God.

CHAP. IV.

Concerning their Worship and Festivals.

The chief days of worship.

WEDNESDAYS and Saturdays are the days, when people, who have any business with the gods, come and address themselves: that is, either to pray to their god for health, or for their help in some weighty matters, as in war, &c. or to swear concerning any matter in controversy, which is done before the idols.

How they know what god or devil hath made them sick.

But one of their great and frequent businesses with their gods is for the recovery of health. And that god or devil that hath made them sick, in his power only it is to restore them: therefore, when they feel themselves sick or sore—first, they use means to know which god or devil hath been the cause or author thereof; which to find they use these means: with any little stick they make a bow, and on the string thereof they hang a thing they have to cut betel-nuts, somewhat like a pair of scissors; then, holding the stick or bow by both ends, they repeat the names of all, both gods and devils; and, when they come to him who hath afflicted them then the iron on the bow-string will swing: they say by that sign they know their illness proceeds from the power of that god last-named, but I think this happens by the power of the hands that hold it. The god being thus found, to him chiefly they offer their oblations and sacrifices.

There are nine deities, which they call gerehah, which are the planets (reckoning in probably the dragon's head and tail); from whom proceed their fortunes: these they reckon so powerful, that if they be ill affected towards any party, neither God nor devil can revoke it. The gods of their fortunes.

When they are disposed to worship these gerehah, they make images of clay, according to the number that stand disaffected towards them, which by certain magic tricks they know: these images, which are made by the weavers, they paint of divers colours, of horrible and monstrous shapes; some with long tusks like a boar, some with horns like a bull—all in a most deformed manner, but something resembling the shape of a man: before them they prostrate victuals, the sick party sitting all the while before them: these ceremonies are always celebrated in the night, with drums, and pipes, and dancing, until almost day; and then they take these images, and cast them out into the high ways to be trampled under foot; and the victuals is taken away, and eaten by the attendants and despicable people that wait there on purpose. What worship they give the planets.

When they worship those whom they call devils, many of whom they hold to be the spirits of some that died heretofore, they make no images for them, as they did for the planets; but only build a new house in their yard, like a barn, very slight, covered only with leaves, and adorn it with branches and flowers: into this house they bring some of the weapons or instruments, which are in the pagods or temples, and place them on stools at one end of the house, which is hanged with cloth for that purpose, and before them on other stools they lay victuals: and all that time of the sacrifice there is drumming, What worship they give devils.

piping, singing, and dancing; which, being ended, they take the victuals away, and give it to those which drum and pipe, with other beggars and vagabonds—for only such do eat of their sacrifices: not that they do account such things hallowed, and so dare not presume to eat them, but contrariwise they are now looked upon as polluted meat; and, if they should attempt to eat thereof, it would be a reproach to them and their generations.

Who eat the sacrifices.

Their gods are local.

These spirits or gods are local: for those which they worship in one country, or part of the land, are not known or owned to have power over the people in other parts; but each country hath several spirits or devils, that are peculiar to those places, and do domineer over them, and are known by several names they call them by; under whose subjection the people do acknowledge themselves to be; and, as I well perceive, do stand in a greater awe of them, than they do of them whom they call and own to be their gods.

The subjection of this people to the devil.

And indeed it is sad to consider, how this poor people are subjected to the devil, and they themselves acknowledge it their misery, saying their country is so full of devils, and evil spirits, that unless in this manner they should adore them, they would be destroyed by them: Christians they do acknowledge have a prerogative above themselves, and not to be under the power of these infernal spirits.

Sometimes the devil possesses them.

I have many times seen men and women of this people strangely possessed, insomuch that I could judge it nothing else but the effect of the devil's power upon them; and they themselves do acknowledge as much: in the like condition to which

I never saw any that did profess to be a worshipper of the holy name of Jesus. They that are thus possessed, some of them will run mad into the woods, screeching and roaring, but do mischief to none: some will be taken so as to be speechless, shaking, and quaking, and dancing, and will tread upon the fire, and not be hurt; they will also talk idle, like distracted folk.

This may last sometimes two or three months, sometimes two or three days: now, their friends reckoning it to proceed from the devil, do go to him, and promise him a reward if he will cure them: sometimes they are cured, and sometimes die The people do impute this madness to some breach of promise that the party affected had made to the devil, or else for eating some fruit or betel leaves dedicated to him: for they do dedicate some fruit trees to the devil; and this they do, to prevent people from stealing them, (which few will dare to do after such a dedication) and also to excuse themselves in not bestowing their fruit upon any that might ask or desire it: but, before this dedicated fruit is lawful for them to use, they must carry some of it to the temple.

This for certain I can affirm, that oftentimes the devil doth cry with audible voice in the night; 'tis very shrill, almost like the barking of a dog: this I have often heard myself, but never heard that he did any body any harm. Only this observation the inhabitants of the land have made of this voice, and I have made it also, that either just before, or very suddenly after this voice, always the king cuts off people. To believe that this is the voice of the devil, these reasons urge—because there is no creature known to the inhabitants that cry like it, and because it

The devil's voice often heard.

will on a sudden depart from one place, and make a noise in another, quicker than any fowl could fly; and because the very dogs will tremble and shake when they hear it; and 'tis so accounted by all the people.

This voice is heard only in Candy Uda, and never in the low lands. When the voice is near to a Chingulay's house, he will curse the devil, calling him geremoi goulammah, "beef-eating slave be gone, be damned, cut his nose off, beat him in pieces;" and such like words of raillery, and this they will speak aloud, with noise, and passion, and threatening: this language I have heard them bestow upon the voice; and the voice, upon this, always ceaseth for a while, and seems to depart, being heard at a greater distance.

Their sacrifice to the chief devil.

When smaller devils do fail them, they repair unto the great one; which they do after this manner:—they prepare an offering of victuals ready dressed, one dish whereof is always a red cock; which they do as frequently offer to the devil, as papists do wax candles to saints. This offering they carry out into a remote place in the woods, and prostrate it to the honour and service of the grand devil, before which there are men in horrible disguise, like devils, with bells about their legs, and doublets of a strange fashion, dancing and singing, to call, if it were possible, the devil himself to come and eat of the sacrifices they have brought: the sick party is all the while present.

Their festivals.

I have hitherto spoken of their ordinary and daily worship, and their private and occasional devotions; besides these, they have their solemn and annual festivals: now, of these there are

two sorts, some belonging to their gods that govern the earth, and all things referring to this life; and some belonging to the Buddou, whose province is to take care of the soul and future well-being of men.

Festivals to the honour of the gods that govern this world. The great festival in June.

I shall first mention the festivals of the former sort; they are two or three. That they may, therefore, honour these gods, and procure their aid and assistance, they do yearly, in the month of June or July, at a new moon, observe a solemn feast and general meeting, called perahar; but none are compelled—and some go to one pagoda, and some to another. The greatest solemnity is performed in the city of Candy; but, at the same time, the like festival or perahar is observed in divers other cities and towns of the land. The perahar at Candy is ordered after this manner:—

The priest bringeth forth a painted stick, about which strings of flowers are hung, and so it is wrapped in branched silk, some part covered, and some not; before which the people bow down and worship, each one presenting him with an offering, according to his free will. These free-will offerings being received from the people, the priest takes his painted stick on his shoulder, having a cloth tied about his mouth, to keep his breath from defiling this pure piece of wood, and gets up upon an elephant all covered with white cloth, upon which he rides with all the triumph that king and kingdom can afford, through all the streets of the city; but, before him go, first some forty or fifty elephants, with brass bells hanging on each side of them, which tingle as they go.

Next, follow men dressed up like giants, which go dancing

along agreeable to a tradition they have, that anciently they were huge men, that could carry vast burthens, and pull up trees by the roots, &c. after them go a great multitude of drummers, trumpeters, and pipers, which make such a great and loud noise, that nothing else besides them can be heard: then followeth a company of men dancing along, and, after these, women of such casts or trades as are necessary for the service of the pagoda, as potters and washer-women, each cast goeth in companies by themselves, three and three in a row, holding one another by the hand; and between each company go drummers, pipers, and dancers.

After these comes an elephant, with two priests on his back; one whereof is the priest before spoken of, carrying the painted stick on his shoulder, who represents allout neur dio; that is, the god and maker of heaven and earth. The other sits behind him, holding a round thing, like an umbrella, over his head, to keep off sun or rain; then, within a yard after him, on each hand of him, follow two other elephants, mounted with two other priests, with a priest sitting behind, each holding umbrellas as the former; one of them represents cotteragom dio, and the other, potting dio. These three gods that ride here in company, are accounted of all other the greatest and chiefest, each one having his residence in a several pagoda.

Behind go their cook women, with things like whisks in their hands, to scare away flies from them; but very fine, as they can make themselves.

Next, after the gods and their attendants, go some thousands of ladies and gentlewomen, such as are of the best sort

of the inhabitants of the land, arrayed in the bravest manner that their ability can afford, and so go hand in hand, three in a row; at which time, all the beauties on Zelone, in their bravery, do go to attend upon their gods, in their progress about the city. Now are the streets also all made clean, and on both sides, all along the streets, poles stuck up, with flags and pennons hanging at the tops of them, and adorned with bough and branches of cocoa-nut trees, hanging like fringes, and lighted lamps all along on both sides of the street both by day and night.

Last of all go the commanders, sent from the king to see these ceremonies decently performed, with their soldiers after them; and in this manner they ride all round about the city, once by day, and once by night. This festival lasts from the new moon until full moon.

Formerly, the king himself in person used to ride on horseback, with all his train before him in this solemnity, but now he delights not in these shows.

Always before the gods set out to take their progress, they are set in the pagoda door a good while, that the people may come to worship and bring their offerings unto them; during which time there are dancers, playing and shewing many pretty tricks of activity before him; to see the which, and also to shew themselves in their bravery, occasions more people to resort hither, than otherwise their zeal and devotion would prompt them to do.

Two or three days before the full moon, each of these gods

hath a palanquin carried after them to add unto their honour: in the which there are several pieces of their superstitious relics, and a silver pot; which, just at the hour of full moon, they ride out into a river and dip full of water, which is carried back with them into the temple, where it is kept till the year after, and then flung away; and so the ceremony is ended for that year.

This festival of the gods taking their progress through the city, in the year 1664, the king would not permit to be performed; and that same year the rebellion happened, but never since hath he hindered it.

At this time they have a superstition, which lasteth six or seven days, too foolish to write: it consists in dancing, singing, and juggling; the reason of which is, lest the eyes of the people, or the power of the jaccos, or infernal spirits, might any ways prove prejudicial or noisome to the aforesaid gods in their progress abroad. During the celebration of this great festival, there are no drums allowed to be beaten to any particular gods at any private sacrifice.

The feast in November.

In the month of November, the night when the moon is at the full, there is another great solemn feast, called, in their language, cawtha poujah; which is celebrated only by lighting of lamps round about the pagoda, at which time they stick up the longest poles they can get in the woods, at the doors of the pagods, and of the king's palace, upon which they make contrivances to set lamps in rows one above the other, even unto the very tops of the poles, which they call tornes. To maintain the charge hereof, all the country in general do contribute, and

bring in oil. In this poujah, or sacrifice, the king seems to take delight; the reason of which may be, because he participates far more of the honour than the gods do, in whose name it is celebrated: his palace being far more decked and adorned with high poles and lights, than the temples are. This ceremony lasteth but for one night.

And these are their anniversary feasts to the honour of those gods, whose power extends to help them in this life: now follows the manner of their service to the Buddou—who it is, they say, that must save their souls—and the festival in honour of him.

The festival in honour of the god of the soul.

To represent the memorial of him to their eye, they do make small images of silver, brass, and clay, and stone, which they do honour with sacrifices and worship, shewing all the signs of outward reverence which possibly they can. In most places where there are hollow rocks and caves, they do set up images in memorial of this gốd; unto which they that are devoutly bent, at new and full moons do carry victuals, and worship.

His great festival is in the month of March, at their new year's tide. The places where he is commemorated are two, not temples—but the one a mountain, and the other a tree; either to the one or the other, they at this time go with wives and children, for dignity and merit—one being esteemed equal with the other.

The mountain is at the south end of the country, called Hammalella; but, by Christian people, Adam's Peak, the highest in the whole Island; where, as has been said before is the print of

the Buddou's foot, which he left on the top of that mountain in a rock, from whence he ascended to heaven; unto this footstep they give worship, light up lamps, and offer sacrifices, laying them upon it, as upon an altar. The benefit of the sacrifices that are offered here do belong unto the Moors pilgrims, who come over from the other coast to beg, this having been given them heretofore by a former king; so that, at that season, there are great numbers of them always waiting there to receive their accustomed fees.

The tree is at the north end of the king's dominions at Annarodgburro; this tree, they say, came flying over from the other coast, and there planted itself, as it now stands; under which the Buddou-god, at his being on earth, used, as they say, often to sit. This is now become a place of solemn worship; the due performance whereof they reckon not to be a little meritorious; insomuch that, as they report, ninety kings have since reigned there successively; where, by the ruins that still remain, it appears they spared not for pains and labour to build temples and high monuments to the honour of this god, as if they had been born only to hew rocks and great stones, and lay them up in heaps. These kings are now happy spirits, having merited it by these their labours.

Those, whose ability or necessity serve them not to go to these places, may go to some private vihars nearer.

The high honour they have for this god.

For this god, above all other, they seem to have a high respect and devotion, as will appear by this that follows: ladies and gentlewomen of good quality, will sometimes, in a fit of devotion to the Buddou, go a begging for him. The greatest ladies of all do

not indeed go themselves, but send their maids dressed up finely in their stead. These women, taking the image along with them, carry it upon the palm of their hand, covered with a piece of white cloth, and so go to men's houses, and will say, "We come a begging of your charity for the Buddou towards his sacrifice;" and the people are very liberal: they give only of three things to him—either oil for his lamps, or rice for his sacrifice, or money or cotton yarn for his use.

Poor men will often go about begging sustenance for themselves by this means; they will get a book of religion, or a Buddou's image in a case, wrapping both in a white cloth, which they carry with great reverence, and then they beg in the name of the book or the god; and the people bow down to them, and give their charity, either corn, or money, or cotton yarn. Sometimes they will tell the beggar, "What have I to give?" And he will reply, as the saying is, "As much as you can take up between your two fingers is charity." After he has received a gift from any, he pronounceth a great deal of blessing upon him: "Let the blessing of the gods and the Buddou go along with you; let your corn ripen, let your cattle increase, let your life be long," &c.

Some, being devoutly disposed, will make the image of this god at their own charge: for the making whereof they must bountifully reward the founder. Before the eyes are made, it is not accounted a god, but a lump of ordinary metal, and thrown about the shop with no more regard than any thing else: but when the eyes are to be made, the artificer is to have a good gratification, besides the first agreed upon reward.

The eyes being formed, it is thenceforward a god; and then, being brought with honour from the workman's shop, it is dedicated by solemnities and sacrifices, and carried with great state into its shrine or little house, which is before built and prepared for it.

Sometimes a man will order the smith to make this idol; and then, after it is made, will go about with it to a well-disposed people, to contribute toward the wages the smith is to have for making it; and men will freely give towards the charge: and this is looked upon, in the man that appointed the image to be made, as a notable piece of devotion.

I have mentioned the bogahah tree before, which, in memory of this god, they hold sacred, and perform sacrifices, and celebrate religious meetings under;—under this tree, at some convenient distance, about ten or twelve feet at the outmost edge of the platform, they usually build booths or tents; some are made slight only with leaves for the present use, but some are built substantial, with hewn timber and clay walls, which stand many years. These buildings are divided into small tenements for each particular family. The whole town joins, and each man builds his own apartment; so that the building goes quite round like a circle, only one gap is left, which is to pass through to the bogahah tree; and this gap is built over with a kind of portal. The use of these buildings is for the entertainment of the women, who take great delight to come and see these ceremonies, clad in their best and richest apparel. They employ themselves in seeing the dancers, and the jugglers do their tricks, who afterwards by their importunity

will get money of them, or a ring off their fingers, or some such matters. Here also they spend their time in eating betel, and in talking with their consorts, and shewing their fine clothes. These solemnities are always in the night, the booths all set round with lamps; nor are they ended in one night, but last three or four, until the full moon, which always puts a period to them.

CHAP. V.

Concerning their Religious Doctrines, Opinions, and Practices.

As to their religion, they are very indifferent

THERE are few or none zealous in their worship, or have any great matter of esteem for their gods; and they seldom busy themselves in the matters of their religion, until they come to be sick, or very aged. They debar none that will come to see the ceremonies of their worship; and, if a stranger should dislike their way, reprove, or mock at them, for their ignorance and folly, they would acknowledge the same, and laugh at the superstitions of their own devotion; but withal tell you, that they are constrained to do what they do, to keep themselves from the malice and mischiefs that the evil spirits would otherwise do them; with which, they say, their country swarms.

If their gods answer not their desires, they ourse them.

Sometimes in their sickness they go to the house of their gods with an offering, with which they present him, intreating his favour and aid to restore them to health. Upon the recovery whereof they promise him not to fail, but to give unto his majesty (for so they entitle him) far greater gifts or rewards, and what they are they do particularly mention; it may be land, a slave, cattle, money, cloth, &c. and so they will discourse, argue, and expostulate with him, as if he were there present in person before them. If, after this, he fails on his part, and cannot restore them to their health, then the fore-promised things

are to remain where they were; and, instead of which, perhaps he gets a curse, saying—He doth but cheat and deceive them.

It is an usual saying, and very frequent among them (if their gerahah, which is their fortune, be bad) "What can god do against it." Nay, I have often heard them say, "Give him no sacrifice, but shit in his mouth; what a god is he?" So slight an estimation have they of their idol-gods; and the king far less esteems them: for he doth not in the least give any countenance either to the worshipper, or to the manner of worship. And, God's name be magnified, that hath not suffered him to disturb or molest the Christians in the least in their religion, or ever attempt to force them to comply with the country's idolatry; but, on the contrary, both king and people do generally like the Christian religion better than their own, and respect and honour the Christians, as Christians, and do believe there is a greater God than any they adore: and, in all probability, they would be very easily drawn to the Christian, or any other religion, as will appear by this story following: They undervalue and revile their gods.

There was lately one among them that pretended himself a prophet, sent to them from a new god, that as yet was nameless; at which the people were amused, especially because he pretended to heal the sick, and do miracles: and presently he was had in high veneration. He gave out it was the command of the new nameless god to spoil and pull down the dewals; that is, the temples of the former gods. This he made a good progress in, with no let or impediment, from king or people. The king all this while inclined neither to one or other, as not regarding such matters, until he might see which of these gods would prevail—the old or the new: for this A fellow gives out himself for a prophet.

people stand in fear of all that are called gods; and this especially surprised them, because without a name; so contrary to all their old ones, who have names. This new-found god therefore went on boldly and successfully, without control: the people all in general began to admire him thus come among them; and great troops of people daily assembled thither with sacrifices, and to worship him. Whereby, seeing their inclination so strong towards him, he began to perceive it was not only possible, but also easy and probable, to change his priesthood for a kingdom.

His success.

The king sends for one of his priests.

At which time, whether the king began to suspect or not, I cannot say, but he sent for one of his priests to be brought up to the court: for this god had his residence in the country, at Vealbow, in Hotcourly, somewhat remote from the king. This priest having remained at the city some days, the king took a ring from off his finger, and put it in an ivory box, and sent it by three of his great men to him, bidding him to inquire of his nameless god what it was that was therein; which amazed this priest: but he returned this subtle answer—that he was not sent to divine, but to heal the diseases and help the infirmities of the people. Upon which the king gave command to take him and put him in the stocks, under a tree, there to be wet with the rain, and dry again with the sun: which was executed upon him accordingly.

Flies to Columba, pretends himself to be a former king's son.

The chief priest, who was the first inventor of this new god, hearing what the king had done, and fearing what might follow, suddenly dispatched, and carried all, what he had plundered out of the pagods, with him to Columba, and stole one of the king's elephants to carry it upon: where, being arrived, he

declares himself to be the son of the King of Mautoly, who was elder brother to this king that now is; and for fear of whom he fled to Columba; being at that time when the Portugals had it, who sent him to Goa, where he died.

This being noised abroad, that he was a prince, made the people flock faster to him than before; which changed both his heart and behaviour from a priest to a king. Insomuch that the Dutch began to be in doubt what this might grow to: who, to prevent the worst, set a watch over him; which he not liking of, took the advantage of the night, and fled with all his followers and attendants up to the king again, and came to the same place where he lay before.

Flies from the Dutch.

No sooner had the king notice of his arrival, but immediately he dispatched five of his greatest commanders, with their soldiers, to catch him, and to bring him up to him; which they did, laying both him and all his followers in chains. The king commanded to keep him in a certain pagoda of the Chingulays, until the matter were examined: the people in general much lamenting him, though not able to help. The chief of their churchmen, viz. their gonni-nancies, were all commanded to make their personal appearance at court: which all thought was to see the prince, or priest, should have a legal trial. But, in the mean time, the king commanded to cut him in four quarters, and hang them in places which he appointed—which was done.

The king catches and quarters him.

Nevertheless the vulgar people, to this day, do honour and adore the name and memorial of the nameless god; with which, if he could have been content, and not have gone about to usurp

The people's opinion still of this now god.

the crown—the king so little regarding religion—he might have lived to die a natural death.

Their doctrines and opinions.

These people do firmly believe a resurrection of the body, and the immortality of souls, and a future state; upon which account they will worship their ancestors. They do believe, that those they call gods are the spirits of men that formerly have lived upon the earth. They hold, that in the other world, those that are good men, though they be poor and mean in this world, yet there they shall become high and eminent; and that wicked men shall be turned into beasts. There is a spider among them that breeds an egg, which she carries under her belly; it is as wide as a groat, and bigger than the body of the spider: this egg is full of young spiders, that breed there—it hangs under her belly wheresoever she goes; and, as their young ones grow to bigness, they eat up the old one. Now, the Chingulays say, that disobedient children shall become spiders in the other world, and their young ones shall eat them up.

They hold that every man's good or bad fortune was predetermined by God, before he was born, according to an usual proverb they have, ollua cottaula tiana—it is written in the head.

The highest points of devotion.

They reckon the chief points of goodness to consist in giving to the priests, in making pudgiahs, sacrifices to their gods, in forbearing shedding the blood of any creature; which to do they call pau boi, a great sin; and in abstaining from eating any flesh at all, because they would not have any hand, or any thing to do, in killing any living thing. They reckon herbs and plants more innocent food. It is religion also to sweep

under the bogahah, or god-tree, and keep it clean. It is accounted religion to be just and sober, and chaste and true, and to be endowed with other virtues, as we do account it.

They give to the poor out of a principle of charity, which they extend to foreigners, as well as to their own countrymen: but of every measure of rice they boil in their houses for their families, they will take out a handful, as much as they can gripe, and put into a bag, and keep it by itself, which they call mittahaul; and this they give and distribute to such poor as they please, or as come to their doors. Their charity.

Nor are they charitable only to the poor of their own nation; but, as I said, to others, and particularly to the Moorish beggars, who are Mahometans by religion: these have a temple in Candy. A certain former king gave this temple this privilege—that every freeholder should contribute a ponnam to it; and these Moors go to every house in the land to receive it: and, if the house be shut, they have power to break it open, and to take of goods to the value of it. They come very confidently when they beg, and they say they come to fulfil the people's charity; and the people do liberally relieve them for charity's sake. The privilege of the Moorish beggars.

There is only one country in the land, viz. Dolusbaug, that pays not the aforesaid duty to the Moor's temple: and the reason is, that, when they came first to demand, the inhabitants beat them away: for which act they are free from the payment of that ponam; and have also another privilege granted them for the same, that they pay no marral, or harriots, to the king, as other countries do.

These Moors pilgrims have many pieces of land given to them, by well-disposed persons, out of charity, where they build houses and live; and this land becomes theirs from generation to generation, for ever.

They respect Christians; and why?

They lay flowers, out of religion, before their images, every morning and evening; for which images they build little chapels in their yards, as we said before. They carry beads in their hands, on strings, and say so many prayers as they go: which custom, in all probability, they borrowed of the Portuguese. They love a man that makes conscience of his ways: which makes them respect Christians more than any others—because they think they are just, and will not lie. And thus we have finished our discourse of their religion.

CHAP. VI.

Concerning their Houses, Diet, Housewifery, Salutation, Apparel.

HAVING already treated of their religion, we now come to their secular concerns; and first, we will lead you into their houses, and shew you how they live.

Their houses are small, low, thatched cottages, built with sticks daubed with clay, the walls made very smooth; for they are not permitted to build their houses above one story high, neither may they cover with tiles, nor whiten their walls with lime; but there is a clay which is as white, and that they use sometimes. They employ no carpenters or house builders, unless some few noblemen, but each one buildeth his own dwelling; in building whereof there is not so much as a nail used; but, instead of them, every thing which might be nailed is tied with rattans and other strings, which grow in the woods in abundance—whence the builder hath his timber for cutting. The country being warm, many of them will not take pains to clay their walls, but make them of boughs and leaves of trees. The poorest sort have not above one room in their houses, few above two, unless they be great men; neither doth the king allow them to build better. Their houses

They are not nice nor curious in their houses: they have no

No chimneys. chimneys in them, but make their fires in one corner—so that the roof is all blacked with the smoke.

The houses of the better sort. The great people have handsome and commodious houses. They have commonly two buildings, one opposite to the other, joined together on each side with a wall, which makes a square court-yard in the middle: round about against the walls of their houses are banks of clay to sit on, which they often daub over with soft cow-dung to keep them smooth and clean. Their slaves and servants dwell round about without, in other houses, with their wives and children.

Their furniture. Their furniture is but small: a few earthen pots which hang up in slings, made of canes, in the middle of their houses, having no shelves; one or two brass basons to eat in, a stool or two without backs—for none but the king may sit upon a stool with a back: there are also some baskets to put corn in, some mats to spread upon the ground to sleep on, which is the bedding, both for themselves and friends when they come to their houses: also some ebony pestles about four feet long, to beat rice out of the husk, and a wooden mortar to beat it in afterwards to make it white, a hirimony or grater to grate their cocoa nuts with, a flat stone, upon which they grind their pepper and turmeric, &c. with another stone, which they hold in their hands at the same time. They have also in their houses axes, bills, houghs, atches, chissels, and other tools for their use. Tables they have none, but sit and eat on the ground.

How they eat. And now we are mentioning eating, let us take a view of this people at their meals: their diet and ordinary fare is but very mean, as to our account. If they have but rice and salt

in their house they reckon they want for nothing; for, with a few green leaves, and the juice of a lemon with pepper and salt, they will make a hearty meal. Beef here may not be eaten, it is abominable. Flesh and fish is somewhat scarce: and that little of it they have, they had rather sell to get money to keep than eat it themselves; neither is there any but outlandish men that will buy any of them. It is they, indeed, do eat the fat and best of the land. Nor is it counted any shame or disgrace to be a niggard and sparing in diet, but rather a credit even to the greatest of them, that they can fare hard, and suffer hunger; which, they say, soldiers ought to be able to endure.

How the great men eat.

The great ones have always five or six sorts of food at one meal, and of them not above one or two, at most, of flesh or fish, and of them more pottage than meat, after the Portugal fashion; the rest is only what groweth out of the ground. The main substance with which they fill their bellies is rice; the other things are but to give it a relish.

Discouraged from nourishing cattle.

If these people were not discouraged from rearing and nourishing of cattle and poultry, provisions might be far more plentiful; for here are many jackals which catch their hens, and some tigers that destroy their cattle: but the greatest of all is the king, whose endeavour is to keep them poor, and in want. For from them that have hens his officers take them for the king's use, giving little or nothing for them; the like they do by hogs. Goats, none are suffered to keep, besides the king, except strangers.

In dressing of their victuals they are not to be discommended;

Cleanly in dressing their meat. for, generally, they are very cleanly and very handy about the same: and, after one is used to that kind of fare, as they dress it, it is very savoury and good. They sit upon a mat on the ground, and eat: but he, whom they do honour and respect, sits on a stool, and his victuals on another before him.

Their drink, and manner of eating. Their common drink is only water; and, if they drink rack, it is before they eat, that it may have the more operation upon their bodies: when they drink, they touch not the pot with their mouths, but hold it at a distance, and pour it in. They eat their rice out of china dishes, or brass basons, and they that have not them, on leaves. The carrees, or other sorts of food which they eat with their rice, is kept in the pans it is dressed in, and their wives serve them with it, when they call for it: for it is their duties to wait and serve their husbands while they eat; and, when they have done, do take and eat that which they have left upon their trenchers: during their eating, they neither use nor delight to talk to one another.

Their manner of washing before and after meals. They always wash their hands and mouths both before and after they have eaten; but, for others to pour the water on their hands, is looked upon as an affront; for, so they do to them, whom they account not worthy to handle their water pot: but, when they wash, with one hand they pour it themselves upon the other. They are very cleanly both in their bodies and heads, which they do very often wash; and also, when they have been at stool, they make use of water.

None must speak while the rice is put into the pot. But to give you a little of their cookery:—if people being in the room talking together, the woman, being ready to put the rice into the pot, bids them all be silent till she has put it in,

Their manner of Eating & Drinking

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and then they may proceed with their discourse: for, if they should talk while the rice is putting in, it would not swell.

At the time of the year that there is most plenty of lemons, they take them and squeeze the juice into an earthen pot, and set over the fire, and boil it so long, till it becomes thick and black like tar: this they set by for their use, and it will keep as long as they please. A very small quantity of it will suffice for sauce: they call it annego. Sauce made of lemon juice.

They have several sorts of sweetmeats; one they call caown: it is like to a fritter made of rice flour, and jaggory. They make them up in little lumps, and lay them upon a leaf, and then press them with their thumbs, and put them into a frying pan, and fry them in cocoa-nut oil or butter. When the Dutch first came to Columba, the king ordered these caown to be made and sent to them, as a royal treat; and, they say, the Dutch did so much admire them, that they asked if they grew not upon trees, supposing it past the art of man to make such dainties. Their sweetmeats.

Oggulas, another sort of sweetmeats, made of parched rice, jaggory, pepper, cardamúm, and a little cinnamons: they roll them up in balls, which will grow hard; these they tie up in bags, and carry them with them when they travel, to eat in afternoons when they are hungry.

Alloways, made much after the former manner, only they are flat, in the fashion of a lozenge; which are good for faintings and thirsty souls to relish their water, and to eat of in afternoons when they are at home. We carried some of these along with us in our travel.

A kind of puddings.

Yacpetties, made of rice flour, and the meat of the cocoa-nut and jaggory; they are made up into small lumps, and so put in a leaf, and laid on a cloth over a pot of boiling water, the stream of which heats that which is laid upon it, and so they are sodden like a pudding: they taste like white bread, almonds, and sugar.

Pitu, which is made thus:—they take flour of coracan, and sprinkle a little water into it, being both put into a large pot for the purpose; then they stir and roll it in the pot with their hands, by which means it crumbles into corns like gunpowder; then they have a pot of boiling water, with a cloth tied over it; and upon this cloth they lay so much of this corn flour as they can conveniently cover with another pot; and so the steam, coming through the cloth, boils it, that it will be much like unto a pudding; and this they use to eat, as they do rice.

The women's housewifery.

The women's housewifery is to beat the rice out of the husk, which they do with an ebony pestle, before mentioned; they lay the rice on the ground, and then beat it, one blow with one hand, and then tossing the pestle into the other, to strike with that; and, at the same time they keep stroke with their feet, (as if they were dancing) to keep up the corn together in one heap; this being done, they beat it again in a wooden mortar to whiten it, as was said before. This work, though it be very hard, belongeth only to the women: as also to fetch both wood and water; the wood they bring upon their heads, the water in an earthen pot, placing it upon their hip: to the women also belongs a small bill to cut herbs, pumpkins, &c. which she is to dress; which bill she lays upon the ground, the edge upwards, and sets herself upon a staff or handle to

hold it fast; and, what she meaneth to cut, she lays upon the edge, and shoveth it on it.

When one comes to another's house, being set down, the entertainment is, green leaves, they call bullat, which they eat raw with lime and betel-nut, and tobacco; and, being set awhile, the man of the house will ask the stranger what he comes for, which, if he does not suddenly, the stranger will take exceptions at it, as thinking he is not welcome to him: neither do they ever go one to visit the other, unless it be for their own ends, either to beg or borrow. How they entertain strangers.

And if kindred, that are very nearly related come together, they have no loving or private conference one with the other, but sit like strangers very solid and grave: and, if they stay above one night, which is the common custom, then they do help and assist the man of the house in any work or service he hath to do. And kindred.

When any friends go to another's house to visit, they never go empty handed, but carry provisions and sweetmeats with them to their friend: and then he makes them a feast according to his ability; but they never eat of those things which themselves brought:—but there is but little feasting among them, unless at a wedding. When they visit.

We have been long enough in the house, let us walk abroad, and shew you how the people demean themselves without doors.

When they meet one another, their manner of salutation or obeisance is, to hold forth their two hands, the palms upwards, Their manner of salutations.

and bow their bodies; but the superior to the inferior holds forth but one hand; and, if the other be much beneath him, he only nods his head: the women salute by holding up both their hands edgeways to their foreheads: the general compliment one to another at first meeting, is to say—Ay; it signifies—How do you: and the other answers—Hundoi; that is, well.

The nobles in their best apparel.

The habit of the men when they appear abroad is after this sort:—the nobles wear doublets of white or blue calico, and about their middle a cloth; a white one next their skin, and a blue one or of some other colour, or painted, over the white: a blue or red sash girt about their loins, and a knife with a carved handle, wrought or inlaid with silver, sticking in their bosom; and a complete short hanger carved and inlaid with brass and silver by their sides—the scabbard most part covered with silver, bravely engraven; a painted cane, and sometimes a tuck in it in their hands, and a boy always bare-headed with long hair hanging down his back waiting upon him, ever holding a small bag in his hand, which is instead of a pocket, wherein is betel-leaves and nuts; which they constantly keep chewing in their mouth, with lime kept in a silver box rarely engraven, which commonly they hold in their hands, in shape like a silver watch.

The fashion of their hair.

The great ones also generally, and spruce young men, do wear their hair long, hanging down behind; but when they do any work, or travel hard, it annoying them, they tie it up behind: heretofore generally they bored holes in their ears, and hung weights in them, to make them grow long, like the Malabars, but this king not boring his, that fashion is almost left off: the men for ornament do wear brass, copper, silver rings on their

A Nobleman

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A Gentlewoman

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fingers, and, some of the greatest, gold; but none may wear any silk.

But the women in their apparel do far surpass the men, neither are they so curious in clothing themselves as in making their wives fine: the men's pride consists in their attendance, having men bearing arms before and behind them.

The women dressed in their bravery.

In their houses the women regard not much what dress they go in, but so put on their clothes as is most convenient for them to do their work; but when they go abroad, and make themselves fine, they wear a short frock with sleeves to cover their bodies, of fine white calico, wrought with blue and red thread in flowers and branches: on their arms silver bracelets, and their fingers and toes full of silver rings; about their necks, necklaces of beads or silver, curiously wrought and engraven, gilded with gold, hanging down so low as their breasts: in their ears hang ornaments made of silver set with stones, neatly engraven and gilded: their ears they bore when they are young, and roll up cocoa-nut leaves, and put into the holes to stretch them out; by which means they grow so wide, that they stand like round circles on each side of their faces, which they account a great ornament; but in my judgment a great deformity—they being well-featured women.

How they dress their heads.

Their other ornaments and apparel shew very comely on them—their hair they oil with cocoa-nut oil to make it smooth, and comb it all behind: their hair grows not longer than their waist; but, because it is a great ornament to have a great bunch of hair, they have a lock of other hair fastened in a plate of engraved silver and gilded, to tie up with their own in a knot,

hanging down half their backs. Their hands are bare, but they carry a scarf of striped or branched silk, or such as they can get, casting it carelessly on their head and shoulders: about their waists they have one or two silver girdles made with wire and silver plate, handsomely engraven, hanging down on each side, one crossing the other behind; and as they walk they chew betel: but, notwithstanding all their bravery, neither man nor woman wears shoes or stockings; that being a royal dress, and only for the king himself.

They commonly borrow their fine clothes.

It is in general a common custom with all sorts of people to borrow apparel or jewels to wear when they go abroad; which, being so customary, is no shame nor disgrace to them, neither do they go about to conceal it; for, among their friends or strangers where they go, they will be talking, saying—"This I borrowed of such an one, and this of another body:" their poverty is so great, that their ability will not reach to buy such apparel as they do desire to wear; which nevertheless is but very mean and ordinary at the best.

CHAP. VII.

Of their Lodging, Bedding, Whoredom, Marriages, and Children.

HAVING been thus entertained with the fine ladies abroad, it is time now to return home to our lodging; and the night coming on, we will lead you to their bed-chambers, and shew you how they sleep—about which they are not very curious: if their house be but one room (as it often is) then the men sleep together at one end, and the women at the other.

Their bed, and how they sleep a-nights.

They have bedsteads laced with canes or rattans, but no testars to them, nor curtains—that the king allows not of: neither have they nor care they for more than one bedstead, which is only for the master of the house to sit, or sleep on: to this bedstead belongs two mats and a straw pillow; the women with the children always lie on the ground on mats by the fire-side: for a pillow she lays a block or such like thing under her mat—but the children have no pillows at all; and for covering and other bedding they use the cloth they wear by day: but always at their feet they will have a fire burning all night, which makes more work for the women, who must fetch it all upon her head; for it is accounted a disgrace for the man to meddle or make with those affairs that properly do belong unto the woman.

They rise in the night.

The younger sort of children, such as go naked by day, creep in under a corner of their mothers' clothes: and, if they feel themselves cold in the night, they rise and blow the fire with their mouths—having no bellows in that country—and so sit and warm themselves thereby.

They are so little given to sleep, that they do rise many times in the night to eat betel and to take tobacco; which done, they lay them down, and sing songs until they fall asleep again.

Children taught to sing at going to bed.

At their first going to bed, it is very seldom that they do pray to God, neither do they ever teach their children so to do; but sometimes will say, Auh Dio; which is, God help or keep me: but they do, instead of that, teach and bid their children to sing songs when they go to bed.

Young people lie at one another's houses.

Where their houses consist but of one room, the children that are of any years always go and sleep in other houses, among their neighbours; which please them better than their own: for so they come to meet with bedfellows; nor doth it displease the parents, if young men, of as good quality as themselves, become acquainted with their daughters, but rather like well of it; knowing that their daughters, by this means, can command the young men to help and assist them in any work or business that they may have occasion to use them in: and they look upon it so far distant from a disgrace, that they will, among their consorts, brag of it, that they have the young men thus at their command.

So that youth are bred up to whoredom: indeed, here are no

public whores allowed by authority. In the city, some that have followed that trade, have oftentimes, by the king's order, been severely punished, by whipping, and having their ears and hair cut off; but, in private, few or none can exempt themselves: and, for the matter of being with child, which many of them do not desire, they very exquisitely can prevent the same.

Nothing so common as whoredom.

Indeed, the public trade would be bad, and hardly maintain them that exercised it, the private one being so great; and though I think they be all whores, yet they abhor the name of vesou, which is whore: neither do they in their anger reproach one another with it, unless they should lay with a man of an inferior quality to themselves; and the woman reckons herself as much obliged to the man for his company, as he does to her for her's. In these affairs the women are very expert (it being their continual practice) to keep their design from the husband's knowledge; though, by his own experience, he cannot be ignorant of women's devices; and, unless he catch them in the act, he doth not much trouble himself to prove himself a cuckold—cuckolds being so common, that it is not here regarded.

They are guilty of the thing, but love not the name.

It is a law here, that if a man catch another in bed with his wife, he may, be it whosoever, kill him and her, if he please. It hath so happened, that the man hath come to the door when another hath been within with his wife; there being no way to escape, the woman has took a pan of hot ashes; and, as she opened the door, her husband being entering, cast them in his eyes, and so she and her bedfellow made an escape.

The man may kill whom he finds in bed with his wife.

To fetch wood out of the woods to burn, and to fetch home

The women's craft to compass and conceal their debauchery.

the cattle is the woman's work; if they cannot have their opportunities at home, now they appoint their meetings, while the husband stays at home holding the child. In the evenings it is common for them, with whom the women be acquainted, to come and wait behind the house, when it is dark, to attend their coming forth to them. To which end they give them notice, either by breaking of a stick, or by putting some betel over the wall, to fall in such places as they have appointed, where she will look to find it; and, when she has such notice, she cannot want an excuse to go forth to meet him.

They bear such love to their bedfellows, that I have known this done:—The husband hath beset the house, and the woman's friend in it, when she hath holpen him to make a hole through the thatch to get out at, which he hath done, and made his escape, and she remain behind to suffer all the blame herself. When other opportunities are wanting to enjoy the company of their paramours whole nights together, they usually take occasion to be discontented, and fall out with their husbands, and so go home to their friends houses to get longer enjoyments; who, to shew their friendship, will not hinder, but further them in what they delight in.

They do treat their friends with the use of their wives or daughters.

In some cases, the men will permit their wives and daughters to lie with other men: and that is, when intimate friends, or great men chance to lodge at their houses, they commonly will send their wives, or daughters, to bear them company in their chamber; neither do they reckon their wives to be whores for lying with them that are as good, or better than themselves.

They do not matter, or regard, whether their wives, at the first

marriage, be maids or not; and, for a small reward, the mother will bring her daughter, being a maiden, unto those that do desire her: but it is so much abhorred for women of the high cast, or descent, to admit men of the low cast to have any thing to do with them, that I think they never do it.

The mother for a small reward, prostitutes her daughter.

Marriages.

But enough of this ribaldry; let us turn away to more honest practices; to speak of their marriages, which make the bed lawful: there are not many ceremonies used in or about the same. Here is no wooing for a wife—the parents commonly make the match; and, in their choice, regard more the quality and descent than the beauty: if they are agreed, all is done. The match being thus made, the man carrieth, or sends to the woman, her wedding clothes, which is a cloth containing six or seven yards in length, and a linen waistcoat wrought with blue and red. If the man be so poor that he cannot buy a cloth, it is the custom to borrow one: in case the man with his friends goes and carries it himself, that night they both sleep together, to beget acquaintance one with the other; and then they appoint a day, when he is to come and fetch her home, which is the marriage-day.

No wooing.

The bridegroom goes to the bride's house.

The day being come, he, attended with his friends, goes to her house, which is always in the evening, and brings provisions and sweetmeats with him according to his ability, towards the charges of the wedding, which is never more than two meals, whereof supper is the first. Then the bride and bridegroom both eat together in one dish; which is to intimate, that they are both of one rank and quality—and sometimes they tie their thumbs together, but not always, and that night go to sleep together.

How the bridegroom carrieth home his bride.

The next day, having dined, he taketh his bride, and departeth home with her, putting her before him, and he following her, with some of her friends to conduct her; for it is the constant custom and fashion in this land for the husband to follow his wife: the reason whereof is a tradition among them, that a man once going foremost, it happened that his wife was stolen away, and he not aware of it. Being come home the bridegroom makes a feast as he is able.

A ceremony of marriage

Some few days after, her friends usually come to see her, bringing a present of provision with them; and sometimes they use this ceremony—the man is to stand with one end of the woman's cloth about his loins, and she with the other, and then they pour water on both their heads, wetting all their bodies; which being done, they are firmly married to live together, so long as they can agree.

The elder sorts of people usually woo and conclude their marriages as they are in bed together; for when they have lost their maidenheads, they fear not much what man comes to sleep with them, provided he be of as good quality as they, having nothing more to lose: and at the day appointed the man gives the woman her clothes, and so takes her home.

Man and wife may part at pleasure.

But their marriages are but of little force or validity: for if they disagree and mislike one the other, they part without disgrace; yet it stands firmer for the man than for the woman: howbeit, they do leave one the other at their pleasure. They do give according to their ability a portion of cattle, slaves, and money with their daughters; but, if they chance to mislike one another, and part asunder, this portion must be returned again,

and then she is fit for another man, being as they account never the worse for wearing.

Both women and men do commonly wed four or five times before they can settle themselves to their contentation. And if they have children when they part, the common law is, the males for the man, and the females for the woman: but many of the women are free from this controversy, being childless.

Men and women change till they can please themselves.

In this country, each man, even the greatest, hath but one wife; but a woman often has two husbands: for it is lawful and common with them for two brothers to keep house together with one wife, and the children do acknowledge and call both fathers.

Women have two husbands.

So long as the women have their infirmities or flowers upon them, they are accounted very unclean, insomuch that the very house is polluted in that degree, that none will approach near it; and even she herself cares not to conceal it, but calls out to them that come near, that they may avoid her house; but, after she hath washed her head and body, all is purified again. It is lawful for no woman, although they be great men's wives, to sit on a stool in the presence of a man. It is customary for men upon any frivolous account to charge one another in the king's name to do or not to do, according as they would have it. This the women, upon penalty of having their tongues cut out, dare not presume to do.

Women unclean.

Privileges of men above women.

As it is usual to punish men for faults committed by imprisonment and chains, or by making them stand with a weight on their backs, until they do pay such a sum of money as is de-

manded, which for ordinary faults may be five or ten shillings; so the punishment, which is inflicted upon women, is to make them stand with a basket of sand upon their heads, so long as they shall think fitting, who appoint the punishment. Punishment by stripes is never used either to men or women, but only to those on whom the king commands them to be laid.

Privileges of women.

Lands of inheritance, which belong to women, are exempted from paying harriots to the king: women pay no custom for things they carry to the sea-ports; neither is any custom paid for what is carried upon any female cattle, cow, or buffalo.

They often destroy new born infants.

They have no midwives, but the neighbouring good women come in and do that office. As soon as the child is born, the father, or some friend, apply themselves to an astrologer, to enquire whether the child be born in a prosperous planet, and a good hour, or in an evil. If it be found to be in an evil, they presently destroy it, either by starving it, letting it lie and die, or by drowning it, putting its head into a vessel of water, or by burying it alive, or else by giving it to some body of the same degree with themselves, who often will take such children, and bring them up by hand with rice and milk; for they say, the child will be unhappy to the parents, but to none else. We have asked them why they will deal so with their poor infants, that came out of their bowels. They will indeed have a kind of regret and trouble at it; but they will say withal, "Why should I bring up a devil in my house?"—For they believe, a child born in an ill hour, will prove a plague and vexation to his parents, by his discbedience and untowardliness.

But seldom a first born.

But it is very rare a first-born is served so; him they love and

make much of: but, when they come to have many, then usual it is, by the pretence of the child's being born under an unlucky planet, to kill him. And this is reputed no fault, and no law of the land takes cognizance of it.

In their infancy they have names, whereby one may be called and distinguished from the other; but, when they come to years, it is an affront and shame to them, either men or women, to be called by those names, which they say is to be like unto dogs. Then they change their names into titles, according to the town wherein they were born, or do dwell. Also they have other names, which may be compared to coats of arms, properly and only belonging to that family, by which likewise they are called. Their names

This people are very ambitious of their titles, having but little else that they can boast in: and of names and titles of respect they have great plenty in their language; instances whereof shall be given afterwards. They are ambitious of high titles.

CHAP. VIII.

Of their Employments and Recreations.

IT is full time now, that we relate what course of life the people take, and what means they use for a livelihood; this has been in part already related.

Their trade. As for commerce and merchandize with foreign nations, there is little or nothing of that now exercised; indeed, in the times when the Portuguese were on this Island, and peace between them and the king, he permitted his people to go and trade with them; the which he would never permit them to do with the Hollander, though they have much sought for it. They have a small traffic among themselves, occasioned from the nature of the Island; for that which one part of the country affords, will not grow in the other—but in one part or other of this land they have enough to sustain themselves, I think, without the help of commodities brought from any other country; exchanging one commodity for another, and carrying what they have to other parts to supply themselves with what they want.

Work not discreditable to the best gentlemen. But husbandry is the great employment of the country, which is spoken of at large before; in this the best men labour: nor is it held any disgrace for men of the greatest quality to do any work, either at home, or in the field, if it be for themselves, but

to work for hire with them, is reckoned for a great shame; and very few are here to be found that will work so: but he that goes under the notion of a gentleman, may dispense with all works, except carrying—that he must get a man to do when there is occasion; for carrying is accounted the most slave-like work of all.

Under their husbandry, it may not be amiss to relate how they geld their cattle: they let them be two or three years old before they go about this work; then casting them, and tying their legs together, they bruise their cods with two sticks tied together at one end, nipping them with the other, and beating them with mallets all to pieces; then they rub over their cods with fresh butter and soot, and so turn them loose, but not suffer them to lie down all that day: by this way they are secured from breeding maggots, and I never knew any die upon this. How they geld their cattle.

Whensoever they have occasion to use glue, they make it after this fashion: they take the curd of milk, and strain the water from it through a cloth; then tying it up in a cloth like a pudding, they put it into boiling water, and let it boil a good while; which done, it will be hard like cheese-curd; then mixing it with lime, use it. If it be not for present use, they will roll up these curds into a ball, which becomes hard, and as they have occasion will scrape some of it off with a knife, and so temper it with lime; this lime with them is as soft as butter. How they make glue.

Their manufactures are few; some calicoes, not so fine as good strong cloth, for their own use—all manner of iron tools for smiths, and carpenters, and husbandmen; all sorts of earthen Their manufactures.

ware, to boil, stew, fry, and fetch water in; goldsmith's work, painter's work, carved work, making steel and good guns, and the like.

But their art in ordering the iron-stone and making iron may deserve to be a little insisted on; for the country affords plenty of iron, which they make of stones, that are in several places of the land—they lay not very deep in the ground; it may be about four, or five, or six feet deep.

How they make iron

First, they take these stones and lay them in a heap, and burn them with wood, which makes them more soft, and fitter for the furnace; when they have so done, they have a kind of furnace made with a white sort of clay, wherein they put a quantity of charcoal, and then these stones on them, and on the top more charcoal: there is a back to the furnace, like as there is to a smith's forge, behind which the man stands that blows; the use of which back is to keep the heat of the fire from him. Behind the furnace they have two logs of wood placed fast in the ground, hollow at the top, like two pots; upon the mouths of these two pieces of hollow wood they tie a piece of a deer's skin, on each pot a piece, with a small hole as big as a man's finger in each skin; in the middle of each skin, a little beside the holes, are two strings tied fast to as many sticks stuck in the ground, like a spring, bending like a bow—this pulls the skin upwards. The man that blows stands with his feet, one on each pot, covering each hole with the soles of his feet; and, as he treads on one pot, and presseth the skin down, he takes his foot off the other, ~~which~~ presently, by the help of the spring, riseth; and the doing so alternately, conveys a great quantity of wind through the pipes into the furnace—for there are also two pipes

made of hollow reed, let in to the sides of the pots, that are to conduct the wind like the nose of the bellows into a furnace.

For the ease of the blower, there is a strap that is fastened to two posts, and comes round behind him, on which he leans his back; and he has a stick laid crossways before him, on which he lays both his hands, and so he blows with greater ease: as the stones are thus burning, the dross that is in them melts, and runs out at the bottom, where there is a slanting hole made for the purpose, so big as the lump of iron may pass through: out of this hole, I say, runs out the dross like streams of fire, and the iron remains behind; which, when it is purified, as they think enough, so that there comes no more dross away, they drive this lump of iron through the same sloping hole, then they give it a chop with an axe half through, and so fling it into the water: they so chop it, that it may be seen that it is good iron, for the satisfaction of those that are minded to buy.

For a farewell of their labours, let it not be unacceptable to relate here a piece of their housewifery, and tell you how they make butter. First, they boil the milk, then they turn it into a curd; the next morning they skim off the cream, and drill it in an earthen vessel with a stick, having a cross at the bottom of it, somewhat like a chocolate stick: when the butter is come, they put it in a pan and fry it, to get all the water dry out of it, and so put it into an earthen pot for use. How they make butter

There are no markets on the Island—some few shops they have in the cities, which sell cloth, rice, salt, tobacco, limes, drugs, fruits, swords, steel, brass, copper, &c. Shops in the city.

Prices of commodities.

As to the prices of commodities, they are sold after this rate:—rice in the city, where it is dearest, is after six quarts for fourpence halfpenny, English, or a small tango, or half a tango; six hens as much; a fat pig the same; a fat hog, three shillings and sixpence, or four shillings—but there are none so big as ours; a fat goat, two and six pence; betel-nuts, 4000, nine-pence current price, when a trade.

And, now we are discoursing of their traffic, we will speak a little of their measures, weights, and coin.

Of their measures.

First for measures.—A rian is a cubit, which is with them from the bone on the inside of the elbow to the tip of the fourth finger.—A waddo rian is the carpenter's rule: it is as much as will reach from one elbow to the other; the thumbs touching one the other at the tops, and so stretching out both elbows.

For their corn-measures, the least is a potta, which is to contain as much grain as a man can hold heaped up in his whole hand, palm, and fingers and all: four pottas make a lawful, or statute-measure, called bonder nellia, signifying the king's measure; which is the king's ordinary allowance to a man—that is as much as he can eat in a day; but we Englishmen were allowed two. Four of these bonder nellias make a courney. In fashion it is a handsome turned measure; some of them are made with canes, like a basket; ten of these courneys make a pale, that is, forty measures, which is the usual price in Candy Uda: but in time of harvest two pales for a laree: four of these pales make an ommouna; in which they keep the account of their corn, reckoning by ommounas.

For their weights, their smallest is a collonda—six make just a piece of eight:—they have half collondas, and quarter collondas. When they are to weigh things smaller than a collonda, they weigh them with a kind of red berries, which grow in the woods, and are just like beads — the goldsmiths use them: twenty of these beads make a collonda; and twenty collondas make a pallum. Their weights.

Here is no punishment for those that make less weights and measures: they are more circumspect that their measures be not too big than too little; for money being scarce, corn passeth instead of money, and every man metes by his own measure; which, therefore, he makes as large as he can, or dares; that so when he receives his debt of corn, he may get as much as he can; which, upon this account, would be a great injury to the poorer sort of people, who commonly are the debtors: therefore the adigar's officers will go about the towns to examine the measures by a statute-measure; and where they find great ones they cut them in pieces, and hang them up in the streets to terrify others, and sometimes will amerce a fine upon them that have them. Measures bigger than the statute punishable, but less not —and why.

Of money they have but three sorts that passeth for coin in the king's dominions: the one was coined by the Portugals; the king's arms on one side, and the image of a friar on the other, and by the Chingulays called tangom massa. The value of one is nine-pence English; poddi tangom, or the small tangom, is half as much: there is another sort, which all people by the king's permission may and do make: the shape is like a fish-hook, they stamp what mark or impression on it they please: the silver is purely fine beyond pieces of eight; for, if any sus- Of their coin.

pect the goodness of the plate, it is the custom to burn the money in the fire, red hot, and so put it in water: and, if it be not then purely white, it is not current money.

The third sort of money is the king's proper coin; for none upon pain of death may coin it; it is called a ponnam: it is as small as a spangle; seventy-five make a piece of eight, or a Spanish dollar: but all sorts of money are here very scarce; and they frequently buy and sell by exchanging commodities.

Of their play.

Pass we now from their business to their pastimes and diversions: they have but few sports, neither do they delight in play; only at their new-year they will sport and be merry one with another: their chief play is to bowl cocoa-nuts one against the other, to try which is the hardest. At this time none will work, until their astrologers tell them, it is a good hour to handle their tools; and then both men and women do begin their proper works—the man with his axe, bill, and hough, and the woman with her broom, pestle, and fan to clean her corn.

A play or a sacrifice.

There is another sport, which generally all people used with much delight, being, as they called it, a sacrifice to one of their gods—to wit, potting dio; and the benefit of it is, that it frees the country from grief and diseases; for the beastliness of the exercise they never celebrated it near any town, nor in sight of women, but in a remote place. The manner of the game is thus:—they have two crooked sticks like elbows, one hooked into the other, and so with contrivances they pull with ropes, until the one break the other; some siding with one stick, and some with the other; but never is money laid on either side: upon the breaking of the stick, that party that hath won doth

not a little rejoice; which rejoicing is expressed by dancing and singing, and uttering such sordid beastly expressions, together with postures of their bodies, as I omit to write them, as being their shame in acting, and would be mine in rehearsing; for he is at that time most renowned that behaves himself most shamelessly and beast-like.

This filthy solemnity was formerly much in use among them; and even the king himself hath spent time in it, but now lately he hath absolutely forbidden it, under penalty of a forfeiture of money; so that now the practice hereof is quite left off. For the filthiness of it, forbid by the king.

But though it is thus gone into dis-use, yet out of the great delight the people had in it, they of Gompala would revive it again—and did; which, coming to the king's ear, he sent one of his noblemen to take a fine from them for it. The noblemen knew the people would not come to pay a fine, and therefore was fain to go to work by stratagem. Pitching therefore his tents by a pond, he gave order to call all the people to his assistance to catch fish for the king's use; which they were very ready to do, hoping to have the refuse fish for themselves; and, when they were all thus assembled together with their tools and necessary instruments for that purpose, the nobleman charged them all in the king's name according to the country's fashion, which was, by pulling off his cap, and falling down upon the ground three times, that not a man should budge till they had paid such a sum of money, which was so much apiece, for reviving that play that the king had forbid; which they were forced to do before they departed from the pond side; and the money was carried into the king's exchequer. A cunning stratagem of an officer.

Tricks and feats of activity.

When they would be merry, and particularly at their great festival in the new moon of June or July, (before mentioned) they have people that shew pretty tricks and feats of activity before them. A man sets a pole of seven or eight feet long upon his breast; a boy gets to the top of this pole, and leans with his belly upon the end of it; and thus the man danceth with the pole on his breast, and the boy on it, and but little holding the pole. A man takes four arrows, with blades about a foot long; they are tied one across another, and so laid upon the end of a pole, which rests upon the man's breast; on a sudden he squats down upon the ground, and the four arrows all fall on the four sides of him, sticking in the ground. Two cross bows stand bent, one opposite to the other, charged with arrows drawn up to the heads; they are placed just so high, as they may fly over a man's back when he lies flat upon the ground; a man danceth between them, and shews tricks, and when he is pleased, he touches a string made fast to both sides their triggers, at which they both instantly discharge, and he falls flat down between them, and the arrows fly over his back, which, if they hit him, undoubtedly fly through his body. A woman takes two naked swords, under each arm one, and another she holds in her mouth, then fetcheth a run, and turns clear over, and never touches the ground till she lights on her feet again, holding all her swords fast. There are divers other diversions of this nature, too large to mention.

At leisure times they meet, and discourse of news.

At their leisure, when their affairs will permit, they commonly meet at places built for strangers and wayfaring men to lodge in, in their language called amblomb, where they sit chewing betel, and looking one upon the other very gravely and solidly, discoursing concerning the affairs at court, between

the king and the great men, and what employment the people of the city are busied about: for, as it is the chief of their business to serve the king, so the chief of their discourse is concerning such matters; also they talk of their own affairs, about cattle and husbandry; and, when they meet with outlandish men, they inquire about the laws and government of their country, and if it be like theirs; and what taxes and duties we are bound to pay, and perform to our king, &c.

And this manner of passing their leisure time they account the greatest recreation. Drunkenness they do greatly abhor; neither are there many that do give themselves to it: tobacco, likewise, they account a vice, but yet it is used both by men and women, but more eaten than drunk in pipes. Drunkenness abhorred.

But, above all things, betel leaves they are most fond of, and greatly delight in: when they are going to bed, they first fill their mouths with it, and keep it there until they wake, and then rise and spit it out, and take in more; so that their mouths are no longer clear of it than they are eating their victuals. This is the general practice both of men and women, insomuch, that they would rather want victuals or clothes than be without it; and my long practice in eating it brought me to the same condition. And the reasons why they thus eat it, are, first, because it is wholesome; secondly, to keep their mouths perfumed; for, being chewed, it casts a brave scent; and, thirdly, to make their teeth black—for they abhor white teeth, saying that is like a dog. Their great delight in betel.

The better sort of women, as gentlewomen or ladies, have no other pastime but to sit and chew betel, swallowing the

spittle, and spitting out the rest: and when friends come to see and visit one the other, they have as good society thus to sit and chew betel, as we have to drink wine together.

The manner of their eating betel leaves.

But, to describe the particular manner of their eating these leaves:—they carry about with them a small box, filled with wet lime; and, as often as they are minded to eat betel, they take some of this lime, as much as they judge convenient, and spread it thin upon their leaf; then they take some slices of the betel nut, and wrap them up in the leaf, and so eat it, rubbing their teeth therewith ever and anon to make them black: thus they eat it generally; but sometimes they eat it otherwise, according as they please, neither spreading the lime on the leaf, nor rolling up slices of the nut into it; but they will take a little of the lime out of their box, between their fingers, and put it in their mouths, and eat of the nut and the leaf by themselves.

But whensoever they eat of the betel leaf, the lime and the nut always accompany it.

How they make lime.

They have a pretty shift of making their lime, when they chance to need it as they are travelling. They take certain shells, almost resembling snail's shells, which they pick up in fresh-water rivers, washed ashore with the water beating upon the rocks; these shells, mixed with charcoal and fire, they wrap up in a wisp of rice straw, and bind them together in a round bundle, of a convenient bigness, tying all up with green withs, that they may not fall in pieces: by a with, some four feet long, they hold it in their hands, swinging it round over their heads; which motion blows the coals, and makes

them burn. And, as they are weary of swinging it in one hand, they shift, and take it in the other: and so keep swinging it for half an hour, or thereabouts; by which time it will be burnt to very good lime, and most part of the straw consumed; but it is still kept together by the green withs: then they take it and wet it in water, and put it into their pots or boxes for their use. The lime made of white stone, burnt in a kiln, they do indifferently use to eat with their leaves, as well as this made of shells, now described.

CHAP. IX.

Of their Laws and Language.

THERE are three things that ingenious men may possibly be inquisitive after, which have not yet been professedly handled—their laws, their language, and their learning.

Their laws.

Concerning the first, here are no laws, but the will of the king; and whatsoever proceeds out of his mouth is an immutable law: nevertheless, they have certain ancient usages and customs that do prevail, and are observed as laws; and, pleading them in their courts, and before their governors, will go a great way.

Lands descend.

To hint some of them, their lands are hereditary, and do descend from parents to their children; but the eldest son, by privilege of birth-right, does not possess and enjoy all the land—but if the father please, he can divide it among his children: yet, in case the eldest son does enjoy the land, then, without dispute, he is to maintain his mother, and her children, until they come to years of ability to provide for themselves.

In case corn receives damage by a neighbour's cattle.

They have a custom in the land of Ouvah, which is a great breeder of cattle, and hath but very little wood, so that they have not wherewith to make hedges; it is, that when they sow their lands, they drive their cattle thence, and watch them all

day that they break not into the corn; and at night they tie their cattle, to secure them from straying into the corn lands: otherwise, if one neighbour's cattle eats another neighbour's corn, he must pay the damage.

Those that are lazy and loath to plough, or that are poor and want corn to sow, the custom is, to let out their ground to others to till at ande, that is, at halves; but fees and accustomable dues, taken out by the husbandman that tills it, the owner of the land receives not much above a third part.

For the husband hath divers considerable payments besides his half share of the corn: as namely, first he hath cotoumaun, that is so much corn as they scratch off from the whole heap of trodden corn by drawing a bundle of thorns over it. Secondly, waracool, that is a consideration for the expenses they are at in tilling and sowing; for which there is a rate according to the bigness of the field. Thirdly, warrapoll, that is the corn they leave at the bottom of the heap after they have done fanning: which is the women's fee for their pains in weeding the corn, and in pulling it up where it is too thick, and planting it where it is thin, &c. Fourthly, bolerud, which is the chaff and sweepings of the pit. This sometimes comes to a considerable value, according to the quantity of corn that is trodden. Fifthly, peldorah, which is a piece of corn they leave standing before the watch-house, which is set up in their corn grounds to watch their corn from the wild beasts; and this left standing is the fee for watching. There is yet another due, ockyaul, which belongs to their gods, and is an offering sometimes carried away by the priests, and sometimes they bestow it upon the beggars, and sometimes they will take it and hang it up in their houses, and

The loss of letting out land to till.

at convenient time sacrifice it themselves. It is one of their measures, which is about half a peck.

The great considera-tion for corn borrowed.

And in the mean time until this corn is ripe, the owner is fain to go a borrowing corn to sustain himself and family, which he pays consideration for: which is, when his own corn is ripe, a bushel and an half for a bushel; that is, at the rate of fifty per cent. Which manner of lending corn is a means that doth maintain many strangers and others; for they who have got a small stock of corn by that profit may competently live upon it, which was the means that Almighty God prepared for my relief and maintenance.

Corn thus lent is somewhat difficult to receive again: for the debtor, being poor, all the creditors will come into the field, when the corn is a sharing, that being the place of payment; and, as soon as it is divided, each one will scramble to get what he can; and, having taken possession of it, from thence the creditor must carry it home himself, be it far or near.

The debt becomes double in two years.

If the debt remains in the debtor's hands two years, it becomes doubled; and from thence forward be it never so long, no more use is to be paid by the law of the land; which act was established by the king in favour of the poor, there having been some whole families made slaves for a bushel of corn.

If the debtor pay not his debt he is liable to be a slave for it.

But yet it is lawful for the creditor missing corn to lay hands on any of his goods; or, if the sum be somewhat considerable, on his cattle or children, first taking out a license from the magistrate so to do; or, if he have none, on himself or his wife, if she came with him to fetch the debt; if not, she is clear from this violence, but his children are not.

Divers other laws and customs.

If a woman goes away from her husband without his consent, no man may marry her, until he first be married. In lending of money, by the use of it in one year's time it becomes double; and, if the creditor receive not his money at the expiration of the year, but lets it lie in the debtor's hands never so long after, no more than double is to be paid,—the increase never runs up higher as it is in lending corn. If a bond woman has children by a free man, the children are all slaves to her master; but if a bond man has children by a free woman, the children are free; for the children are always as the mother, whether bond or free. No man may cut down a cocoa-nut tree. If any man to a bargain or promise gives a stone in the king's name, it is as firm as hand and seal, and if any after this go back of his word, it will bear an action. If any man be taken stealing, he must restore seven for one, or else be made a slave, if he be not able to pay it.

It is lawful and customary for a man in necessity to sell or pawn his children, or himself. No man building an house, either in his own or another man's ground, if he be afterwards minded to leave his land, where his house stood, may pull it down again; but must let it stand for the benefit of whosoever comes after him.

For deciding controversies.

For the deciding of matters in controversy, especially of more abstruse cognizance, the parties do both swear before their gods, sometimes in their temples, and sometimes upon more extraordinary occasions in hot oil.

Swearing in the temples.

Sometimes in their temples. To explain which, take this following relation:—a slave was accused by a merchant to have

robbed his house, whereupon, to clear himself, the slave desired he might swear; so the merchant and slave went both to the temple to swear: the merchant swore positively that the slave had robbed his house, and the slave swore as point blank that he had not robbed his house; and neither of them having any witnesses, God, who knew all things, was desired to shew a judgment upon him that was forsworn. They both departed to their houses, waiting to see upon whom the judgment would fall; in the mean time the slave privately sets the merchant's house on fire, and his house was burnt down to the ground. Then it was clear, by this supposed divine judgment, the merchant was forsworn: the slave presently demands satisfaction for laying theft falsely to his charge; the merchant could not tell what to say to it, but would give him none; the slave was now to take his own satisfaction, as he had opportunity, and his master bids him seize upon the merchant's person, or any other relating to him, and bring them to his house, and there detain them: within a short time after, the slave seeing a kinsman of the merchant's passing by, offers to seize him; but he, rather than be taken, draws his knife, and stabs the slave on the shoulder, and so escapes. In fine, the merchant was fain to bribe the great men to save himself from further damage, and sit down contented with the loss of his goods and house; though the slave was a person of a very bad reputation, and had done divers thefts, and some of his stolen goods he hath brought to me to sell.

The benefit of swearing in hot oil

Sometimes they do decide their debates by swearing in hot oil, which, because it is remarkable, I will relate at large. They are permitted thus to swear in matters of great importance only,

as when lawsuits happen about their lands, or when there is no witness; when they are to swear, each party hath a license from the governor for it, written with his hand to it. Then they go and wash their heads and bodies, which is a religious ceremony, and that night they are both confined prisoners in a house with a guard upon them, and a cloth tied over each of their right hands and sealed, least they might use any charm to harden their fingers.

The next morning they are brought out; they then put on clean cloths, and purify themselves, reckoning they come into the presence of God; then they tie to their wrists the leaf wherein the governor's license is, and repair under some bagahah, god tree, and all the officers of the country assemble with a vast number of people besides. Cocoa nuts are brought, and oil is there extracted from them in the sight of the people, that all may see there is no deceit. Also they have a pan of cow-dung and water boiling close by: the oil and cow-dung being both boiling and thoroughly hot, they take a young leaf of a cocoa-nut tree and dip that into the oil, that all may see it is hot: for it singes, and frizzles up, and roars as if you poured water into hot boiling oil, and so they do likewise to the cow-dung. When all are satisfied the oil is hot, the two men come and stand on each side of this boiling oil, and say—The God of heaven and earth is witness, that I did not do this that I am accused of: or, the four sorts of gods be witness, that this land in controversy is mine: and then the other swears quite contrary, but first the accuser always swears; the accused also relates his own innocence, or his own right and title. The cloths that their hands were bound up in are taken off, and immediately upon using the former words, he dips his two fingers into the hot oil,

flinging it out three times, and then goes to the boiling cow-dung, and does the same, and so does the other. Then they tie up their hands again with the cloth, and keep both of them prisoners till the next day, when their hands are looked upon, and their fingers ends rubbed with a cloth, to see if the skin come off; and, from whose fingers the skin comes, he is forsworn, the penalty of which is a great forfeiture to the king, and great satisfaction to the adversary.

I am able to testify, that the fingers of some of these that have thus sworn have been whole from any scald after this use of hot oil; but, whether it be their innocence or their art, that it thus comes to pass, I know not. The penalty of the breach of the laws or customs of this land is at the pleasure of the judge, either amercement or imprisonment, or both.

How they exact fines.

For the taking of fines from men, on whom they are laid, this is their custom: the officers wheresoever they meet the man, stop him in the place, where they take away his sword and knife, and make him pull off his cap and doublet, and there he sits with his keepers by him, till he pays the fine; and, if he delays paying it, they clap a great stone upon his back, in which condition he must remain till he pays it; and, if he doth not pay, they load him with more stones, until his compliance prevent further pains. Another way they have to exact the payment of the fines laid upon them; they take some sprigs of thorns, and draw them between the man's naked legs till he pays; but if he remain obstinate they clap him up in chains.

They have an odd usage among them to recover their debts, which is this: they will sometimes go to the house of their debtor

Smith sc. 43 H. Holborn

The manner of extorting their Fine

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with the leaves of neiingala, a certain plant, which is rank poison, and threaten him that they will eat that poison and destroy themselves, unless he will pay him what he owes. The debtor is much afraid of this, and rather than the other should poison himself, will sometimes sell a child to pay the debt; not that the one is tender of the life of the other, but out of care of himself: for, if the party dies of the poison, the other, for whose sake the man poisoned himself, must pay a ransom for his life. By this means, also, they will sometimes threaten to revenge themselves of those with whom they have any contest, and do it too. And, upon the same intent, they will also jump down some steep place, or hang, or make away with themselves, that so they might bring their adversary to great damage.

To speak now a little of their language.—It is a language peculiar to that Island; and I know not any Indian nation that speak it but themselves. There are a few words that are common to the Chingulays and the Malabars, which they might borrow of one another, by intercourse and commerce; but the words are so few, that a Malabar cannot understand a Chingulay, nor on the contrary. Of their language.

Their language is copious, smooth, elegant, courtly, according as the people that speak it are; who are full of words, titles, and compliments. They have no less than twelve or more titles that they use when they speak to women according to their ranks and qualities.

Titles to women according to their qualities.

Puddeci. *A word for a woman of the lowest condition.*
Kiddekel. *A term of more respect given to a young wench.*

Nanda.	*A term for an inferior woman something in years, signifies also* Ant.
Nandadga.	*A little higher, yet of the like years.*
Nauchere.	*A title may be given to an ordinary woman, still, but yet higher.*
Lamhaumi.	*A title higher than any yet.*
Ettani.	*Higher still.*
Lam-ettani.	*Of more respect.*
Ettanihaumi.	*Higher than that.*
Maugi.	*Proper only to an old woman, but of good quality.*
Maugiwanxi.	*Better than the maugi.*
Comaurehaumi.	*A title due to the greatest ladies.*
Hondreunié.	*Given to the queen or the king.*

So that it is hard to speak to a woman without they know what she is before, lest they might mistake her title. And the women are much pleased with some of the better titles.

Titles given to men.

The men also have various titles, though not so many as the women. People give to them these titles according to the business they have with them. If they come for some favour or kindness to be done them, they bestow the better sort of titles upon them.

They have seven or eight words for thou, or you, which they apply to persons according to their quality, or according as they would honour them. And they are so, topi, umba, umbela, tomnai, tomsi, tomfela, tomnanxi. All these words are gradually one higher than the other.

Their ordinary ploughmen and husbandmen do speak elegantly,

and are full of compliment; and there is no difference between the ability and speech of a countryman and courtier. When any hath a favour to beg of a nobleman, or any business with him, they do not abruptly speak their desires or errand at first, but bring it in with a long harangue of his worth or good disposition or abilities; and this in a very handsome and taking style. They bring up their children to speak after this manner, and use them to go with errands to great men; and they are able to tell their tale very well also.

No difference between a countryman and a courtier for language.

Their speech and manner of address is courtly and becoming.

In their speech the people are bold, without sheepish shamefacedness, and yet no more confidence than is becoming.

The king they call by a name, that signifies somewhat higher than a man, and next to God. But, before the wars, they styled him Dionanxi, which is a title higher than God, by the addition of Nanxi; this title the king took before the rebellion; but since, he forbad it. When they speak to the king concerning themselves, they do not speak in the first person, and say—" I did so, or so; but baulagot, the limb of a dog did it, or will do it." And, when they speak of their children unto the king, they call them " puppies;" as if he ask them " how many children they have?" they say " so many puppy-dogs, and so many puppy-bitches;" by which, by the way, we may conjecture, at the height of the king, and the slavery of the people under him.

Their language in their address to the king.

They have certain words of form and civility, that they use upon occasion: when they come to another man's house, he asks them " What they come for?" which is his civility; and they answer—" Nicamava; I come for nothing:" which is their ordinary

Words of form and civility.

reply, though they do come for something—and upon this they have a fable.

A god came down upon earth one day, and bade all his creatures come before him, and demand what they would have, and it should be granted them: so all the beasts and other creatures came—and one desired strength, and another legs, and another wings, &c. and it was bestowed on them. Then came the white men; the god asked them "What they came for?" And they said, "They desired beauty, and valour, and riches:" it was granted them. At last came the Chingulays—the god required of them, "What they came for?" They answered, "Nicamava—I come for nothing." Then replied he again—"Do you come for nothing; then go away with nothing." And so they for their compliment fared worse than all the rest.

When one proffers something as a gift to another, although it be a thing that he is willing to have, and would be glad to receive, yet he will say, "Eeppa queinda—no, I thank you, how can I be so chargeable to you?" And in the same time, while the words are in his mouth, he reacheth forth his hand to receive it.

Full of words and compliment.

Neither are they free or forward to requite them, from whom they have received a gift or good turn, otherwise than with words and windy protestations—the which shall not be wanting; but forwards they are to receive, yet very backward to part with any thing: and, if one neighbour asketh ought of another, or to borrow any thing, which the other is unwilling either to give or lend, they never will plainly deny, by saying,

"I cannot—or will not;" but with dissembling they will excuse themselves, saying, "They have it not; or it is lent abroad already;" although it be with them in the house at the same time.

By whom they swear.

Their usual manner of swearing in protestations, is by their mother, or by their children, or by their two eyes, oftener than by their gods: but their protestations, be they never so deep, and seem they never so serious, they are not to be regarded, as proceeding more from custom than truth.

Their raillery.

Some of their words of reproach, or raillery, are such as these: one brother will say to another, and that in presence of their mother—"Tomotowoy—go lie with your mother"—the other replies—"Go you and lie with your mother." And the mother will say to the daughter—"Jopi oppota audewind—go lie with your father;" intimating she is good for nothing. They will commend their children, when they can use their tongues in their own defence, by scolding, and say—"Hærri, oppana—well said; valiantly spoken." They will say also in reproach—"Creep between my legs, cut your nose off; if you have five hundred lives you shall be damned." The worst raillery they can give a woman, is to tell her "She has laid with ten sorts of inferior ranks of people, which they will rather die than do." If any thing be stole out of their grounds or plantations, fruit, or the like, they will cry out aloud—"This was done by some low-cast begotten rogue;" or, "She was a whore to some inferior rank who dressed it:" and this language they will continue for half an hour together, though they know not who hath done it: the worst word they use to whites and Christians, is to call them beef-eating slaves.

I shall conclude this discourse of their language, by giving you a taste of their proverbs; some hints of the strain of their speech.

Miris dílah, ingurah gotta—*I have given pepper, and got ginger*—spoken when a man makes a bad exchange; and they use it in reference to the Dutch succeeding the Portuguese in their Island.

Datta horrala badda perind—*Pick your teeth to fill your belly.* Spoken of stingy, niggardly people.

Caula yonawa ruah atti—*To eat before you go forth, is handsome and convenient.* Which they therefore ever do.

Kiallah tiannah, degery illand avah oppala hanguand mordy—*As the saying is, if I come to beg butter-milk, why should I hide my pan.* Which is ordinarily spoken to introduce the business that one man comes to speak to the other about.

Hingonna wellendam cor cottonwat geah par wardenda netta—*A beggar and a trader cannot be lost.* Because they are never out of their way.

Atting mitting delah hottarah harracurnowah—*To lend to another makes him become an enemy:* for he will hate you, if you ask him for it again.

Annuna min yain ecka ourowaying younda eppa—*Go not with a slave in one boat.* It signifies, to have no dealing or correspondence with any one's slave; for if any damage should happen,

it would fall upon your head, and by their law you must make it good.

Issara otting bollanowa pos cotting—First look in the hand, afterwards open the mouth. Spoken of a judge who first must have a bribe, before he will pronounce on their side.

Take a ploughman from the plough, and wash off his dirt, and he is fit to rule a kingdom. Spoken of the people of Candy Uda, where there are such eminent persons of the Hondrew rank; and, because of the civility, understanding, and gravity of the poorest men among them.

Nobody can reproach the king and the beggar. Because the former is above the slander of the people, and nothing can be said bad enough of the latter.

Like *noia* and *polonga.* Denoting *irreconcileable enemies.* The story of which two serpents hath been related before.

He that hath money to give to his judge, need not fear, be his cause right or wrong. Because of the corruption of the great men, and their greediness of bribes.

If our gerehah, *fortune be bad, what can God do against it?* Reckoning that none of their gods have power to reverse the fate of an ill planet.

The ague is nothing, but the head-ach is all. That country is very subject to agues, which do especially afflict their heads who have them: I might multiply many more of their proverbial sayings, but let these suffice.

I cannot pretend to give an account of the *grammar* of this tongue: I shall only give a few instances of their words, and leave it to the learned to make their conjectures. First, I will give you some of their *nouns plural*.

Something of their grammar.

Minnia,	*A man.*	Minnis,	*Men.*
Cucula,	*A cock.*	Cuculong,	*Cocks.*
Cole-la,	*A boy.*	Colani,	*Boys.*
Gahah,	*A tree.*	Gos,	*Trees.*
Auhoun,	*A horse.*	Auspio,	*Horses.*
Polaha,	*A young jack.*	Polas,	*Jacks.*

But usually, when they have occasion to speak of many, they express themselves by *numerals* set after the *noun*: as, *dissawva*, two, three, &c.; *an egg*, bittera; *eggs*, bittera cattei; *word for word*, egg many.

Their *verbs* they form after this manner:

Mam conna,	*I eat.*	Caupoudi,	*Let him eat.*
Mam conyum,	*I will eat.*	Caum,	*Let us eat.*
Mam cava,	*I have eat.*	Conda,	*To eat.*
Conowa,	*Eating.*	Caula,	*Eaten.*

Mam denyam,	*I will give.*	Dem,	*Let us give.*
Mam Doun-na,	*I gave.*	Dennowa,	*Giving.*
Dila,	*I have given.*	Dipon,	*Give him.*
Dendi,	*Shall I give?* / *To give.*	Douna, *or* Dila tiana,	*Given.*

Mam yonyam, *I'll go.* Yonda dipadi, *Let him go.*

Mam yonda oni,	*I will go.*	Pollatch,	*Gone*—spoken of an ordinary person.
Yong,	*Let us go.*	Polladda,	*Gone*—spoken of a person of great quality.
Yonowa,	*Going.*		
Mam oy,	*I am.*	Mam gia atti,	*I have been,* [atti] signifieth [have.]
Eai,	*He* or *they,* or *he is.*	Gia d endi,	*Let him,* or *give hi leave to go.*

A specimen of their words.

Dio,	*God.*	Gani,	*A woman.*
Dio loco,	*Heaven.*	Rodgura,	*A king.*
Jacco,	*The devil.*	Haul,	*Raw rice.*
Narra cauda,	*Hell.*	Bat,	*Boiled rice.*
Aucoi,	*The sky.*	Banglale,	*A table.*
Taurcoi,	*A star.*	Wellau,	*Time.*
Deure,	*Water.*	Wauri,	*Season.*
Gindere,	*Fire.*	Colading,	*Harvest.*

Oppa, Pianannah, Oppatchi,	*Father.*	Dua, Donianna,	*Daughter.*
Omma, Ommandea,	*Mother.*	Molla,	*A flower.*
		Gauhah,	*A tree.*
Puta, Putandi,	*Son.*	Courilla,	*A bird.*
		Gom,	*A town.*

Oppuland, *To wash clothes.*
Naund, *To wash the body.*
Pinaund, *To swim.*
Coppaund, *To cut.*

Goumanic, *A journey.*
Gauman corowaund, *To send* word for word, *to cause to do a journey.*

Heuwaycom, *To fight.*
Coraund, As much as to say, *To act the soldier.*

Negatind, *To rise.*
Upaudenowa, *The resurrection.*
Negantind eppa, *Do not rise.*

Horraund, *To bore.*
Hoppacaund, *To bite.*
Coraund, *To do.*
Corowaund, *To cause to be done.*

Heuwoya, Heuwoynanna, Heuwoynanoura, } All words signifying common soldiers, only they are titles one above another; and the two last are as much as to say, gentlemen soldiers.

Mihi, *To die.*
Mich, *Dead.*
Mienyum, *I will die.*
Miœnowa, *Dying.*
Eppa, *Do not.*

Tonnanud, *To build.*
Tannith *Built.*
Tounchéroutwitch, *It is finished.*
Na & natti, *No,* or *not.*

I shall only make one observation from these words, and that is concerning the four first, it is this;—that they have no words of their own language for God and heaven, but in all probability borrowed them from the Portuguese; but, for the two next, the devil and hell, words of their own. They number thus:—

Eckhoi	I.	*Novihoi*	IX.	*Dauhahottoi*	XVII.
Deckhoi	II.	*Dauhoihoi*	X.	*Dauha ot hoi*	XVIII.
Tunhoi	III.	*Eckolauhoi*	XI.	*Dauhanovihoi*	XIX.
Hotterhoi	IV.	*Dolahoi*	XII.	*Vishoi*	XX.
Pauhhoi	V.	*Dauhottunhoi*	XIII.	*Tihoi*	XXX.
Hoyhoi	VI.	*Dauhotterhoi*	XIV.	*Hottalehoi*	XL.
Hothoi	VII.	*Paulohoi*	XV.	*Ponnahoi*	L.
Ot hoi	VIII.	*Dauhossahoi*	XVI.		

CHAP. X.

Concerning their Learning, Astronomy, and Art Magic.

Of their learning.

THEIR learning is but small: all they ordinarily learn is to read and to write; but it is no shame to a man if he can do neither; nor have they any schools wherein they might be taught and instructed in these or any other arts.

Their books are only of their religion, and of physic. Their chief arts are astronomy and magic. They use a language something differing from the vulgar tongue, (like latin to us) which their books are writ in. They learn to write upon sand, spreading it upon the ground, and making it smooth with the hand, and so write the letters with their fingers, to bring their hand in use.

Tallipot leaf used instead of paper.

They write not on paper, for of that they have little or none; but on a tallipot leaf, with an iron bodkin, which makes an impression: this leaf, thus written on, is not folded, but rolled up like ribbon, and somewhat resembles parchment.

Their manner of writing a book.

If they are to write a book, they do it after this manner:— they take the tallipot leaf, and cut it into divers pieces of an equal shape and size, some a foot, some eight inches, some a foot and a half long, and about three fingers broad; then, having thus prepared the leaves, they write in them long ways

from the left hand to the right, as we do; when the book is finished they take two pieces of board, which are to serve for the cover of the book: to these boards are fastened two strings, which do pass through every leaf of the book, and these tie it up fast together: as the reader hath read each leaf, he lifts it up, and lays it by, still hanging upon the strings, and so goes to the next leaf, something resembling bills filed upon wire.

The gonnies, who are men of leisure, write many books of bonna; that is, of the ceremonies of their religion; and, will sometimes carry them to great men, as a present, and do expect a reward. **The priests write books of bonna.**

The king when he sends any warrants or orders to his officers, hath his writings wrapped up in a way proper to himself; and none else do or may fold up their leaves in that manner but he. **The king's warrants; how wrapped up.**

They write upon the tallipot leaves records or matters of great moment, or that are to be kept and preserved: but, for any ordinary business, as letters, &c. they commonly use another sort of leaf, called taulcole; the leaves of which will bear a better impression than the tallipot; but they are more stubborn, and harder than the other, and will not fold. **They write upon two sorts of leaves.**

But to speak a little of their astronomy:—they who have understanding in it, and practice it, are the priests of the highest order, of which the king's father was; but, the common sort of astrologers are the weavers: these men can certainly foretel eclipses of the sun and moon: they make leet, that is, almanacks that last for a month; they are written upon a tallipot leaf, a little above a foot long, and two fingers broad; in **Their skill in astronomy.** **Their almanacks.**

them are told the age of the moon, and the good seasons and times to begin to plough or to sow, or to go a journey, or to take any work in hand. On this precise time they will be sure to sprinkle their first seed, though they sow all their field it may be a month after: and so they will begin to set forth at the very moment, though possibly they will not go till some days after.

These astronomers tell them also when the old year ends to the very minute; at which time they cease from all work, except the king's, which must not be omitted: they acquaint them also with the good hour of the new year they are to begin work; at which time every man and woman begin to do somewhat in their employment they intend to follow the ensuing year: they have also another season directed them by their astronomers; that is, when to begin to wash their heads, which is assigned to every one according to the time of their nativity—which ceremony they observe very religiously.

The astronomers, or rather astrologers, are skilful in the knowledge of the stars, and planets, of which they reckon nine;—'tis supposed they may add the dragon's head and tail: by which they pretend to foretel all things concerning the health and recovery of sick persons: also concerning the fate of children born; about which the parents do presently consult them, and save their children or kill them, according to the fortunate or unfortunate hour they tell the parents they were born in.

When a person is sick, he carries to these men his nativity, which they call hanna hom pot; upon the perusal of which

they tell his destiny: these also direct fit times for beginning journeys, or other undertakings: they are likewise consulted concerning marriages, by looking upon the man and woman's nativity.

They reckon their time from one Saccewarsi, an ancient king: their year consists of 365 days—they begin their year upon our eight-and-twentieth day of March, and sometimes the seven-and-twentieth; and sometimes, but very seldom, on the nine-and-twentieth: the reason of which I conceive to be, to keep it equal to the course of the sun, as our leap-year doth: they call the year ouredah; this they divide into twelve months, named, Wasachmaha, Pomaha, Ahalamoha, Micheneha, Bochmoha, &c.: they divide their months into weeks, each consisting of seven days, called, Fridah, Sandudah, Onghorudah, Bodadah, Braspotindah, Secouradah, Henouradah: the first of which they account a good and a fortunate day to begin to do or undertake any thing; and it falls out upon our Sunday. On their Wednesdays and Saturdays they open their churches, and perform their ceremonies: their day, which they call Dausack, they divide into thirty pays, hours, or parts, and begin their account from the sun rising, and their night also into as many, and begin from sun-setting; so that the fifteenth pay is twelve o'clock at noon; they have a flower, by which they judge of the time, which constantly blows open seven pays before night.

Their æra, their years, months, weeks, days, and hours.

They have no clocks, hour-glasses, or sun-dials, but keep their time by guess. The king indeed hath a kind of instrument to measure time. It is a copper dish, holding about a pint, with a very small hole in the bottom. This dish they set

How they measure their time.

a swimming in an earthen pot of water; the water leaking in at the bottom till the dish be full, it sinks;—and then they take it out, and set it empty on the water again, and that makes one pay. Few or none use this but the king, who keeps a man on purpose to watch it continually;—the people will use it upon some occasions, as if they are to sow their corn at any particular hour, as being the good lucky season, then they make use of the copper pan, to know the time exactly.

Their magic.

They do practise magic:—whereof take these two remarkable instances that might be given.

The plenty of country destroyed by magic.

The country of Neurecalava formerly brought forth great plenty of corn, occasioned by reason of its large waterings. A neighbour kingdom, the kingdom of Cournegal, which lies in Hotcourley, in those times was brought to a great dearth, at which the king sends to the people of Neurecalava, that they would bring a supply of corn to his country, which they did in great store upon beasts in sacks, and arrived at the king's city: and there, for the more expeditious measuring out every householder his proportion of corn, they made a hole in the sacks, and let it run out, still driving on the beasts before them; and all that was shed before every man's house, was to be his share. This exceedingly gratified the king.

Afterwards, the king to requite them asked what they most needed in this country? They answered, "They had plenty of all things, only they wanted cahah mirris;" that is, turmeric and pepper. The king, to gratify them, sent them such a quantity of each as his country could afford. As soon as this was brought to the people of Neurecalava, they went to measure

it out to every man his portion; but, finding it of so small a quantity, they resolved to grind it, as they do when they use it with their victuals, and put it into the river to give a seasoning to the water, and every man was to take up his dish of water thus seasoned. From whence Neurecalava had its denomination, viz. from Near, signifying a city, and cahah, that signifies turmeric; and lava, as if it were lalla, put into the river.

The king, hearing of this action of theirs, was offended, in that they so contemned his gift, but concealed his displeasure. Some time after, he took a journey to them; and, being there, desired to know how their country became so very fruitful; they told him, it was the water of the river pent up for their use in a very vast pond, out of which they made trenches to convey the water down into their corn grounds. This pond they made with great art and labour with great stones and earth thrown up a vast length and thickness, in the fashion of a half moon. The king afterwards took his leave of them, and went home, and by the help of his magicians break down this vast dam that kept in the water, and so destroyed the pond. And by this means this fruitful country, wanting her water, is become as ordinary land as the rest, having only what falls out of the sky.

When a robbery is committed—to find the thief, they charm a cocoa-nut, which is done by certain words, and any one can do it that can but utter the charm words: then they thrust a stick into it, and set it either at the door or hole the thief went out at: then one holds the stick with the nut at the end of it, Their charm to find out a thief.

and the nut pursues and follows in the tract that the thief went. All the way it is going, they still continue charming, and flinging the blossoms of the betel-nut tree upon it, and at last it will lead to the house or place where the thief is, and run upon his feet. This nut will sometimes go winding hither and thither, and sometimes will stand still; then they follow their charms, strewing on blossoms, and that sets it forward again. This is not enough to find the thief guilty; but, if they intend to prosecute the man upon this discovery, the charmer must swear against him point blank, which he sometimes will do upon the confidence of the truth of his charm, and the supposed thief must either swear or be condemned.

The way to dissolve this charm.

Oftentimes men of courage and metal will get clubs, and beat away the charmer and all his company, and by this means put all to an end. If the thief has the wit to lay his tail by the way, the cocoa-nut, when it comes thither, will stop and run round about it, but go no further. I, doubting the truth hereof, once took the stick, and held it myself, when they were upon this business, but it moved not forward while I held it in my hand, though they strewed their flowers, and used their mutterings to provoke it; but afterwards, when another took it, it went forward. I doubted whether they did not guide it with their hand, but they assured me it guided their hand.

Inscriptions upon rocks.

Here are some ancient writings engraven upon rocks, which poseth all that see them. There are divers great rocks in divers parts in Candy Uda, and in the northern parts. These rocks are cut deep with great letters for the space of some yards, so deep that they may last to the world's end: nobody

can read them or make any thing of them;—I have asked Malabars, Gentuses, as well as Chingulays and Moors, but none of them understood them: you walk over some of them. There is an ancient temple, Goddiladenni in Yattanour, stands by one place where there are of these letters. They are probably in memorial of something; but of what we must leav to learned men to spend their conjectures.

CHAP. XI.

Of their Sickness, Death, and Burial.

The diseases this country is subject to.

NOTHING now remains, but to carry you to their sick beds, and to tell you what they do with the bodies of their friends deceased, and their behaviour on these occasions. They live to a great age, very often to fourscore, and hale at that age: the king's sister was near an hundred. They are healthy, and of a sound constitution: the diseases this land is most subject to are agues and fevers, and sometimes to bloody fluxes: the small pox also sometimes happeneth among them, from which they cannot free themselves by all their charms and enchantments, which are oftentimes successful to them in other distempers; therefore they do confess, like the magicians in Egypt, that this is the very finger of Almighty God. They are also subject to aches and pains in their bodies; for the remedy whereof, they have excellent ointments and oils, which they make and keep, to have ready when they have occasion.

Every one a physician to himself.

Here are no professed physicians nor chirurgeons, but all in general have some skill that way, and are physicians and chirurgeons to themselves. Their medicines they make of the leaves that are in the woods, and the bark of trees, with which they purge and vomit themselves, and will do notable cures upon green wounds, and also upon sore eyes.

To give a few hints of their method of physic, and what ingredients they make use of.

For purging, they make use of a tree called dallugauhah: it bears no leaves, nothing but thorns, and is of a soft substance; being cut, there runs out a white thick milk, into which we soak some whole corns of pepper a whole night; the next day the pepper is taken out and washed clean, and then boiled in fair water, with a sour fruit they call goraca, which we shall speak of by and bye; this they drink, and it purgeth very well. This milk is reckoned as rank poison as any thing can be, and yet the goats eat of the tree greedily without harm. To purge.

For a vomit, there is a leaf of a plant called warracole, in colour like a cabbage leaf, but smaller; it grows upon a long stalk, some three feet high; this leaf, as soon as it is broken from the stalk is full of milk, which runs out: in this milk they put a lump of salt, and let it lie a whole night; the next day they take the salt out, which is not dissolved, and wash it clean, then boil a little rice and water together; after 'tis taken off the fire, they put this salt into it, and drink it. To vomit.

There is a strong purge they make, with a berry called jawpolls, which is a little long greenish berry: of itself it is rank poison. They boil it with goraca and pepper in water, and drink a little of the water.

For drawing and healing of sores, they have a leaf called mockinacola: it is very like our tunhoof or ground ivy, only it is a brighter green; it runs along upon the ground, and spreads itself as tunhoof doth. They only take the leaf and clap it upon the sore. To heal sores.

To heal an imposthume

For an imposthume in the throat, they take the rind of the tree amaranga, and bruise and rub it with green turmeric, and wrap it up in a plantain leaf, and bury it in hot ashes, and there let it lie an hour or two till the fire hath well qualified it. Then the patient takes it, and keeps chewing it for a day or two, swallowing the spittle. The virtue of this I myself can testify, being exceedingly ill with a sore throat, and could not swallow; by the use of this I was well within a day and a night.

For a hurt in the eye.

For a sore, or hurt in the eye, they take oulcande-cole, gode-racole, two herbs, the juice of each, and woman's milk; and having mingled them, drop them into the eye. I had a thorn of a considerable length run into the grey of my eye, and put me to great pain; the Chingulays advised me to use this means, assuring me how successful it was wont to be; but I was loath to tamper with so tender a place; and, thanks be to God, after some days the thorn fell out of itself.

To cure the itch.

It is a speedy cure of the itch, to take condouro giddi, a fruit of a tree, in form somewhat like a muscle, but bigger: this fruit they cut in slices, and fry it in cocoa-nut oil, and with this oil they anoint the body.

The caudle for lying-in women.

The ordinary caudle for women in child-bed is goraca boiled in water, with pepper and ginger; women in that condition use nothing else. This goraca is a fruit round like an apple, marked with divers creases along the side of it; being ripe, it is within and without, red like blood, but sour; they use this fruit as we do lemons and oranges. The core is sweet and pleasant, but they regarding it not fling it away: if you bite this fruit, it sticks to the teeth like wax or pitch, but their chief use of it

is, to boil it with other things, to make them taste sour; they gather them at the time of year, and break the cloves asunder by their fingers; for they, if they be pulled, will part at the creases, and then they lay them in the sun and dry them; being dried they look like men's ears, and so they keep them for their use: two or three of these will give a pleasant sour relish unto a large vessel of any liquid thing. This goraca is in great use among them.

As there are in this country very many poisonous plants, and creatures, so the people have excellent skill in the healing thereof. There is one plant among the rest so strong a venom, that no creature will eat or touch it; and this is the leaf, that the people sometimes carry with them when they go to demand their debts, and threaten their debtors—they will poison themselves before them, unless they will pay them. It is called neiingala, a sprig that springs out of the ground almost like an honeysuckle, but not so big, and bears a curious flower, much like an honeysuckle.

Excellent at the cure of poison.

They are oftentimes stung with venomous serpents, upon which sudden death follows, without speedy help: but, if the bite be taken in time, they can certainly cure themselves, and make nothing of it; which they perform both by herbs and charms, though upon the sting they presently vomit blood. The knowledge of these antidotal herbs they have learned from the mounggoutia, a kind of ferret. This creature, when the noya and he meets, always fight; if he chanceth to be bitten by the serpent, which is very venomous, he runs away to a certain herb and eats it, and so is cured, and then comes back and fights again. The Chingulays, when they see these two things

They easily heal the biting of serpents by herbs.

fighting, do diligently observe them; and, when they see the mounggoutia go away, they take notice of the herbs he eats, and thereby have learned what herbs are proper to cure such venoms.

And charms.

They are skilful also in the use of charms: to cure the stings of serpents, or to prevent them, the noyas they can charm to that pass, that they will take them up in their hands, and carry them in baskets, and handle them, and kiss them without any harm; but the polonga will not hear a charm. They charm other wild and venomous creatures also: as the tiger, that he shall not hurt their cattle.

Not good at healing inward distempers.

But to cure inward diseases they are not excellent; but generally, when they are sick, they apply themselves to their gods; but their chief supplication they make to the devil, as being God's instrument, sent to punish and afflict whom he pleaseth, as I have discoursed at large already.

They both bury and burn their dead.

These people are very loath to die, and as much afraid of the devil in their sickness, whom at such times they chiefly invoke. Being dead, none will come near the house for many days, lest they should be defiled: the better sort burn the dead, because worms and maggots should not eat them; but the poorer sort, who regard not such matters, bury them, making a hole in the woods, and carrying the body wrapped up in a mat, upon a pole on their shoulders, with two or three attending it, and so laying it in without any ceremony, and covering it.

Some days after his decease, if his friends wish well to his soul, they send for a priest to the house, who spends a whole

night in praying and singing for the saving of that soul. This priest, besides very good entertainment, in the morning must have great gifts and rewards; and, to encourage them therein, he tells them, that the like bounty and liberality as they shew to him, shall the soul of their departed friend receive in the other world; and so, according to their ability, they freely give unto him such things as they are possessors of: and he, out of his wonderful good nature, refuseth not any thing, be it never so mean. And thus with drums and pipes sounding before him, they conduct him home to his house. They send for a pries to pray foi his soul.

Their manner of mourning for the dead is, that all the women that are present do loose their hair, and let it hang down, and with their two hands together behind their heads, do make an hideous noise, crying and roaring as loud as they can, much praising and extolling the virtues of the deceased, though there were none in him; and lamenting their own woeful condition to live without him: thus for three or four mornings they do rise early, and lament in this manner; also on evenings. Meanwhile the men stand still and sigh. How they mourn for the dead.

These women are of a very strong courageous spirit, taking nothing very much to heart, mourning more for fashion than affection, never overwhelmed neither with grief or love: and, when their husbands are dead, all their care is where to get others, which they cannot long be without. The nature of the women.

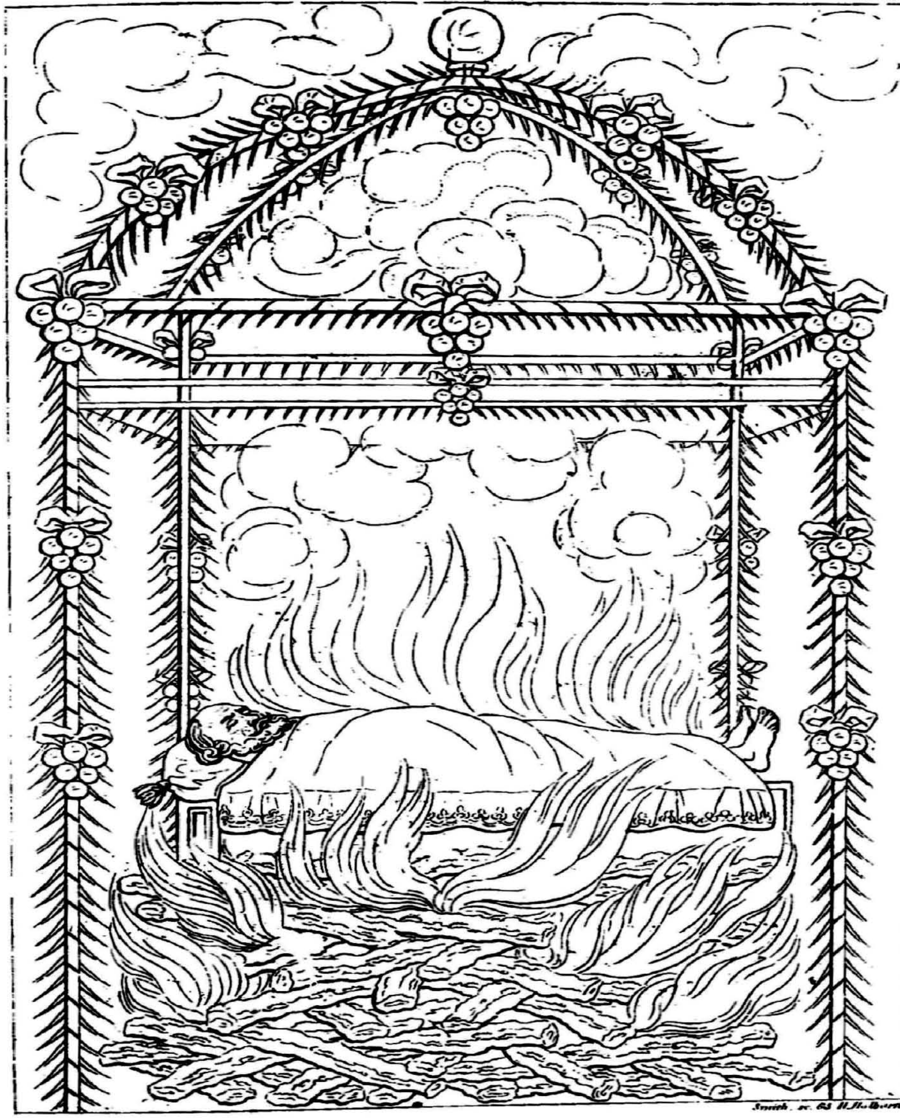
It may not be unacceptable to relate how they burn their dead. As for persons of inferior quality, they are interred in some convenient places in the woods, there being no set places for burial, carried thither by two or three of their friends, and How they bury.

buried without any more ado. They lay them on their backs, with their heads to the west, and their feet to the east, as we do: then those people go and wash: for they are unclean by handling the dead.

How they burn.

But persons of greater quality are burned, and that with ceremony. When they are dead, they lay them out, and put a cloth over their privy parts, and then wash the body, by taking half a dozen pitchers of water, and pouring upon it: then they cover him with a linen cloth, and so carry him forth to burning; this is, when they burn the body speedily. But otherwise, they cut down a tree that may be proper for their purpose, and hollow it, like a hog-trough, and put the body, being embowelled and embalmed, into it, filled up all about with pepper, and so let it lay in the house, until it be the king's command to carry it out to the burning; for that they dare not do without the king's order, if the person deceased be a courtier. Sometimes the king gives no order in a great while—it may not be at all; therefore, in such cases, that the body may not take up house-room, or annoy them, they dig a hole in the floor of their house, and put hollowed tree and all in, and cover it. If afterwards the king commands to burn the body, they take it up again, in obedience to the king—otherwise there it lies.

Their order for burning is thus: if the body be not thus put into a trough or hollowed tree, it is laid upon one of his bedsteads, which is a great honour among them. This bedstead, with the body on it, or hollowed tree with the body in it, is fastened with poles, and carried upon men's shoulders unto the place of burning, which is some eminent place in the fields



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The manner of burning their Dead

London: Published May 10th 1816 by J. Mawman

or highways, or where else they please. There they lay it upon a pile of wood some two or three feet high;—then they pile up more wood upon the corpse, lying thus on the bedstead, or in the trough. Over all they have a kind of canopy built, if he be a person of very high quality, covered at top, hung about with painted cloth, and bunches of cocoa-nuts, and green boughs, and so fire is put to it. After all is burnt to ashes, they sweep together the ashes into the manner of a sugar-loaf, and hedge the place round from wild beasts breaking in, and they will sow herbs there. Thus I saw the king's uncle, the chief tirinanx, who was, as it were, the chief primate of all the nation, burned upon a high place, that the blaze might be seen a great way. If they be noblemen, but not of so high quality, there is only a bower erected over them, adorned with plantain trees, and green boughs, and bunches, as before.

How they bury those that die of the small pox.

But if any die of the small pox, be his degree what it will, he must be buried upon thorns, without any further ceremony.

PART IV.

CHAP. I.

Of the Reason of our going to Ceylon, and Detainment there.

The subject of this fourth Part.

In this fourth and last Part I purpose to speak concerning our captivity in this Island; and, during which, in what condition the English have lived there, and the eminent providence of God in my escape thence, together with other matters relating to the Dutch, and other European nations, that dwell and are kept there. All which will afford so much variety, and new matters, that I doubt not but the readers will be entertained with as much delight in perusing these things, as in any else that have been already related. I begin with the unhappy occasion of our going to this country.

Anno 1657, the Ann frigate, of London, Captain Robert Knox, commander, on the one-and-twentieth day of January, set sail out of the Downs, in the service of the Honourable the English East-India Company, bound for Fort St. George, on

the coast of Coromandel, to trade one year from port to port in India: which, we having performed, as we were lading of goods to return for England, being in the road of Matlipatan, on the nineteenth day of November, anno 1659, happened such a mighty storm, that in it several ships were cast away, and we were forced to cut our main-mast by the board, which so disabled the ship, that she could not proceed in her voyage: whereupon Cotair, in the Island of Ceylon, being a very commodious bay, fit for our present distress, Thomas Chambers, Esq. (since sir Thomas) the agent at Fort St. George, ordered, that the ship should take in some cloth, and go to Cotair Bay, there to trade, while she lay to set her mast; where being arrived, according to the appointment of those Indian merchants of Porta Nova we carried with us, to whom those goods belonged, they were put ashore, and we minded our business to set another main-mast, and repair our other damages we had sustained by the late storm.

At our first coming thither, we were shy and jealous of the people of the place, by reason our nation never had any commerce or dealing with them; but now, having been there some twenty days, and going ashore and coming on board at our pleasure, without any molestation, the governor of the place also telling us, that we were welcome, as we seemed to ourselves to be, we began to lay aside all suspicious thoughts of the people dwelling thereabouts, who had very kindly entertained us for our money, with such provisions and refreshings as those parts afforded.

They were not jealous of the people, being very courteous.

By this time the king of the country had notice of our being there; and, as I suppose, grew suspicious of us, not having

A pretended message to the captain from the king.

all that while by any message made him acquainted with our intent and purpose in coming; thereupon, he dispatched down a dissauva or general with his army to us; who immediately sent a messenger on board to acquaint the captain with his coming, and desired him to come ashore to him, pretending a letter to him from the king: we saluted the message with firing of guns; and my father, the captain, ordered me, with Mr. John Loveland, merchant of the ship, to go on shore, and wait upon him. When we were come before him, he demanded who we were, and how long we should stay? We told him we were English, and should not stay above twenty or thirty days, and desired permission to trade in his majesty's port. His answer was, the king was glad to hear that the English had come to his country, and had commanded him to assist us as we should desire, and had sent a letter to be delivered to none but to the captain himself.

We were then some twelve miles from the sea-side. Our reply was, that the captain could not leave his ship to come so far; but, if he pleased to come down to the sea-side himself, the captain would immediately wait upon him to receive the letter: upon which the dissauva desired us to stay that day, and on the morrow he would go down with us.

Which being a small request, and we unwilling to displease him, consented to.

The beginning of their suspicions.

The same day at evening, the dissauva sent two of his chief captains to the house where we lay, to tell us, that he was sending a present to the captain, and if we pleased we might send a letter to him: that he would send the present in the night,

and himself, with us, follow the next morning. At which we began to suspect, and accordingly concluded to write and advise the captain, not to adventure himself, nor any other on shore, till he saw us: we having writ a letter to this purpose, they took it and went away, but never delivered it.

The captai[n] seized, and seven mor[e]

The next morning, the present, which was cattle, fruit, &c. was brought to the sea-side, and delivered to the captain; the messengers telling him withal, that we were upon the way coming down with the dissauva, who desired his company on shore against his coming, having a letter from the king to deliver into his own hand. Hereupon the captain, mistrusting nothing, came up with his boat into a small river; and, being come ashore, sat down under a tamarind tree, waiting for the dissauva and us. In which time the native soldiers privately surrounded him and men, having no arms with them; and so he was seized on, and seven men with him; yet without any violence or plundering them of any thing: and then they brought them up unto us, carrying the captain in a hammock upon their shoulders.

The long-boat men seized.

The next day after, the long boat's crew, not knowing what had happened, came ashore to cut a tree to make cheeks for the main-mast, and were made prisoners after the same manner, though with more violence: for they being rough, and making resistance, were bound with withs; and so were led away till they came where the people got ropes; which, when our men saw brought to them, they were not a little affrighted: for, being already bound, they concluded there could be no other use for those ropes but to hang them. But the true use of them was to bind them faster, fearing lest the withs might break, and so they were brought up farther into the country; but, afterwards being

become more tame, they were loosed. They would not adventure to bring them to us, but quartered them in another house, though in the same town; where, without leave, we could not see one another. The house wherein they kept the captain and us, was all hanged with white calico, which is the greatest honour they can shew to any: but the house wherein the other men were, that were brought up after, was not. They gave us also as good entertainment as the country afforded.

The general's craft to get the ship, as well as the men.

Having thus taken both our boats and eighteen men of us, their next care was, fearing lest the ship should be gone, to secure her; therefore to bring this about, the dissauva told the captain,—that the reason of this their detainment was, that the king intended to send letters and a present to the English nation by him, and therefore that the ship must not go away, till the king was ready to send his messenger and message; and thereupon desired the captain to send on board, to order her stay; and, it being not safe for her to ride in the bay, lest the Dutch might come and fire her, that he should take order for her bringing up into the river:—which advice of his, the captain approved not of. But, concealing his dislike of it, replied—"that unless he could send two of his men on board with his letter and order, those in the ship would not obey him, but speedily would be gone with the ship;" which he, rather than he would run the hazard of the ship's departing, granted; imagining that the captain would order the ship to be brought up into the river, as he had advised, though the captain intended to make another use of this message.

The captain's order to them on board the ship.

Upon which the captain sent two of his men, some Indians accompanying them in a canoe to the ship; the captain order-

ing them when they were aboard, not to abuse the Indians, but to entertain them very kindly; and afterwards, that setting them ashore, they should keep the canoe to themselves, instead of our two boats which they had gotten from us, and to secure the ship, and wait till further order.

These two men stayed on board, and came not back again: this, together with the ship's not coming up, displeased the dissauva, and he demanded of the captain the reason thereof. His answer was—"That being detained on shore, the men on board would not obey his command." Upon this some days after, the dissauva bid the captain send his son with order to those aboard, that the ship might be brought into the river; but provided that he would be security for my return, which he promised he would. His order to me was, to see the top chains put upon the cables, and the guns shotted; and to tell Mr. John Burford, chief mate, and all the rest, as they valued their lives and liberties, to keep a watch, and not to suffer any boat to come near, after it was dark; and charged me, upon his blessing, and as I should answer it at the great day, not to leave him in this condition, but to return to him again; upon which I solemnly vowed, according to my duty, to be his obedient son.

The captain's second message to his ship.

So having seen all done according to his appointment, I wrote a letter in the name of the company, to clear my father and myself, to this effect—"That they would not obey the captain, nor any other in this matter, but were resolved to stand upon their own defence;" to which they all set their hands. Which done, according to my promise and duty, I return
delivered the letter to the dissauva, who was the
and afterwards urged the captain no more in

The ship's company refuse to bring up the ship.

gave him leave at his pleasure to write for what he pleased to have brought to him from the ship: still pretending the king's order to release us was not yet, but would suddenly come: and so we remained, expecting it about two months, being entertained as formerly with the best diet and accommodation of the country.

The captain orders the ship to depart.

Having continued thus long in suspense, and the time and season of the year spending for the ship to proceed on her voyage to some other place, and our condition being, as we feared, and afterwards found to be, the beginning of a sad captivity, the captain sent order to Mr. John Burford to take the charge of the ship upon him, and to set sail for Porto Nova whence we came, and there to follow the agent's order.

The lading of cloth remained untouched.

If any inquire what became of the cloth of our lading, which we brought thither, they only took an account to see what it was, and so left it where and as it was before, and there it remained until both house and goods rotted, as the people of the same town informed me afterwards.

The probable reason of our surprise.

I impute the main reason of our surprise to our neglect, viz. in not sending a letter and present to the king at our first coming; who, looking upon himself as a great monarch, as he is indeed, requires to be treated with suitable state.

The number of those that were left on the Island.

Thus were sixteen of us left to the mercy of those barbarians, the names of which are as follow:—The captain, Mr. Joseph Loveland, John Gregory, Charles Beard, Roger Gold, Stephen Rutland, Nicolas Mullins, Francis Crutch, John Berry, Ralph Knight, Peter Winn, William Hubbard, Arthur Emery, Rich-

ard Varnham, George Smith, and myself. Though our hearts were very heavy, seeing ourselves betrayed into so sad a condition to be forced to dwell among those that knew not God nor his laws; yet so great was the mercy of our gracious God, that he gave us favour in the sight of this people; insomuch, that we lived far better than we could have expected, being prisoners, or rather captives, in the hands of the heathen, from whom we could have expected nothing but very severe usage.

The ship being gone, the king sent to call the dissauva speedily to him, who, upon this order, immediately marched away with his army, leaving us where we were; but concerning us was no order at all. The dissauva departs.

CHAP. II.

How we were carried up the Country, and disposed of there, and of the Sickness, Sorrow, and Death of the Captain.

They intend to attempt an escape, but are prevented.

THE dissauva with his men, being gone, the people of the town were appointed to guard and secure us until further order; but they carried us some six miles higher into the country, and would not yet adventure to bring the long boat's crew unto us, but kept them by themselves in another town, fearing lest we might make an escape, as certainly we should have attempted it, had they not removed us. There was a small Moor's vessel, which lay in the river, which they had seized on about this time, as we supposed they would have done by our ship if they could have catched her there. This vessel had some forty men belonging to her, who were not made prisoners as we were, but yet lay in the same town;—with those we had concluded, that they should furnish us with arms, and in the night altogether to march down, and get on board of their vessel, and so make our escape; but, being prevented in this design by our departure, we were fain to lay at their mercy.

Their condition commiserated by the people.

In our new quarters our entertainment proved as good as formerly; and, indeed, there was this to mitigate our misery,—that the people were courteous to us, and seemed to pity us; for there is a great difference between the people inhabiting the high lands, or the mountains of Candy, and those of the low

lands, where we now are placed, who are of a kinder nature by far than the other: for these countries beneath the mountains formerly were in subjection unto the Portuguese, whereby they have been exercised and acquainted with the customs and manners of Christian people, which, pleasing them far better than their own, have begot and bred in them a kind of love and affection towards strangers, being apt to shew pity and compassion on them in their distress: and you shall he .r them oftentimes upbraiding the highlanders for their insolent and rude behaviour.

They are distributed into divers towns.

It was a very sad condition whilst we were all together; yet hitherto, each other's company lessened our sufferings, and was some comfort that we might condole one another; but now it came to pass that we must be separated and placed asunder, one in a village, where we could have none to confer withal or look upon, but the horrible black faces of our heathen enemies, and not understand one word of their language neither: this was a great addition to our grief; yet God was so merciful to us, as not to suffer them to part my father and I.

An order comes from the king to bring them up into the country.

For it was some sixteen days after our last remove, the king was pleased to send a captain with soldiers to bring us into the country; who brought us, and the other men taken in the long boat, together: which was an heavy meeting; being then, as we well saw, to be carried captives into the mountains. That night we supped together, and the next morning changed our condition into real captivity; howbeit, they gave us many comfortable promises, which we believed not; as, that the king's intent was not to keep us any longer than till another ship came to carry us away. Although we had but very little

to carry, God knows, yet they appointed men to carry the clothes that belonged to the captain and officers.

How they were treated on the way in the woods.

We still expected they would plunder us of our clothes, having nothing else to be plundered of: but the Chingulay captain told us, that the king had given order that none should take the value of a thread from us, which indeed they did not: as they brought us up, they were very tender of us, as not to tire us with travelling, bidding us go no faster than we would ourselves: this kindness did somewhat comfort us, the way was plain and easy to travel, through great woods, so that we walked as in an arbour, but desolate of inhabitants; so that for four or five nights, we lay on the ground, with boughs of trees only over our heads. And of victuals twice a day, they gave us as much as we could eat; that is, of rice, salt fish, dried flesh; and sometimes they would shoot deer, and find honey in the trees, good part of which they always brought unto us; and drink we could not want, there being rivers and puddles full of water, as we travelled along.

And in the towns, among the inhabitants.

But when we came out of the woods among inhabitants, and were led into their towns, they brought us victuals ready dressed, after their fashion, viz. rice boiled in water, and three other sorts of food, whereof one flesh, and the other two herbs, or such like things that grow in their country, and all kinds of ripe fruit, which we liked very well, and fed heartily upon. Our entertainment all along was at the charge of the country, so we fed like soldiers upon free quarter; yet I think, we gave them good content for all the charge we put them to; which was to have the satisfaction of seeing us eat, sitting on mats upon the ground in their yards, to the public view of all

beholders, who greatly admired us, having never seen, nor scarce heard of Englishmen before; it was also great entertainment to them, to observe our manner of eating with spoons, which some of us had, and that we could not take the rice up in our hands, and put it to our mouths without spilling, as they do, nor gaped and poured the water into our mouths out of pots, according to their country's custom. Thus at every town where we came, they used both young and old in great companies to stare upon us.

They are brought near Candy and there separated.

Being thus brought up all together, somewhat near to the city of Candy—now came an order from the king to separate us; and to place us one in a town; which then seemed to us to be very hard, but it was for the convenience of getting food, being quartered upon the country at their charge.

The captain and his son and two more quartered together.

The captain, Mr. John Loveland, myself, and John Gregory, were parted from the rest, and brought nearer to the city, to be ready when the king should send for us. All the rest were placed one in a town, according to the aforesaid order. Special command also was given from the king, that we all should be well entertained; and, according to the country fare, we had no cause to complain: we four were thus kept together some two months, faring well all the while; but the king minding us not, order came from the great men in court to place us in towns, as the rest were; only my father and I were still permitted to be together, and a great charge given to use us well, and indeed twice a day we had brought unto us as good fare as the country afforded; all the rest had not their provisions brought to them, as we had, but went to eat from house to house, each house taking its turn.

Parted.

How they fared.

The captain and his son placed in Coos-wat.

On the sixteenth of September, 1660, my father and I were placed in a town called Bonder Coos-wat, the situation was very pleasing and commodious, lying about thirty miles to the northward of the city of Candy, in the country called Hotcourly, and distant from the rest of our people a full day's journey. We were removed hither from another town nearer to the city, where the nobles at court, supposing that the king would call for us, had placed us to have us ready. Being thus brought to Bonder Coos-wat, the people put it to our choice, which house we would have to reside in. The country being hot, and their houses dark and dirty, my father chose an open house, having only a roof, but no walls; wherein they placed a cot, or bedstead, only with a mat upon it for him, which in their account is an extraordinary lodging; and for me a mat upon the ground.

Money scarce with them.

Monies at this time was very low with us; for, although we wanted not for opportunity to send for what we would have brought unto us from the ship, yet fearing we should be plundered of it, sent not for any thing, only a pillow for my father: for we held it a point without dispute, that they that made prisoners of our bodies, would not spare to take our goods: my father also alleging, that he had rather his children at home should enjoy them.

But they had good provisions without it.

But to make amends for that, we had our provisions brought us without money, and that twice a day, so much as we could eat, and as good as their country yielded: to wit, a pot of good rice, and three dishes of such things as is accounted good cheer; one always either flesh, fish, or eggs; but not over

much of this dish; the other dishes, herbs, pumpkins, or such like, one of which is always made sour.

The first year that we were brought into this town, this part of the land was extraordinary sickly by agues and fevers, whereof many people died: insomuch, that many times we were forced to remain an hungry—there being none well enough either to boil or bring victuals unto us.

The town where they were sickly.

We had with us a Practice of Piety, and Mr. Rogers's seven treatises, called the Practice of Christianity; with which companions we did frequently discourse, and, in the cool of the evening, walk abroad in the fields for a refreshing, tired with being all day in our house or prison.

How they passed their time.

This course lasted until God was pleased to visit us both with the country sickness, ague and fever. The sight of my father's misery was far more grievous unto me than the sense of my own, that I must be a spectator of his affliction, and not any ways able to help him: and the sight of me so far augmented his grief, that he would often say, "What have I done, when I charged you to come ashore to me again; your dutifulness to me hath brought you to be a captive. I am old, and cannot long hold out; but you may live to see many days of sorrow, if the mercy of God do not prevent it. But my prayers to God for you shall not be wanting, that for this cause he would visit you with his mercy, and bestow on you a blessing."

They both fall sick.

My father's ague lasted not long; but deep grief, daily more and more, increased upon him, which so over-whelmed even

Deep grief seizes the captain.

his very heart, that with many a bitter sigh he used to utter these words: "These many years, even from my youth, have I used the seas; in which time the Lord God hath delivered me from a multitude of dangers," rehearsing to me what great dangers he had been in, in the Straits by the Turks, and by other enemies, and also in many other places, too large here to insert, and always how merciful God was to him in delivering him out of them all: so that he never knew what it was to be in the hand of an enemy; but now in his old age, when his head was grown grey, to be a captive to the heathen, and to leave his bones in the eastern parts of the world, when it was his hopes and intention, if God permitted him, to finish this voyage, to spend and end the residue of his days at home with his children, in his native country, and to settle me in the ship in his stead—the thoughts of these things did even break his heart.

Their sickness continues.

Upwards of three months my father lay in this manner upon his bed, having under him only a mat, and the carpet he sat upon in the boat when he came ashore, and a small quilt I had to cover him withal. And I had only a mat upon the ground, and a pillow to lay on, and nothing to cover me but the clothes on my back; but, when I was cold, or that my ague came upon me, I used to make a fire, wood costing nothing but the fetching.

Their boy's disobedience adds to their trouble.

We had a black boy my father brought from Porto Nova, to attend upon him, who, seeing his master to be a prisoner in the hands of the people of his own complexion, would not now obey his command, further than what agreed unto his own humour, neither was it then, as we thought, in our power to compel or

make him; but it was our ignorance. As for me, my ague now came to a settled course; that is, once in three days, and so continued for sixteen months time.

His excessive sorrow

There appearing now to us no probability whereupon to build any hopes of liberty, the sense of it struck my father into such an agony and strong passion of grief, that once, I well remember, in nine days time, nothing came into his mouth but cold water; neither did he, in three months together, ever rise up out of his bed, but when the course of nature required it: always groaning and sighing in a most piteous manner; which, for me to hear and see come from my dear father, myself also in the same condition, did almost break my heart. But then I felt that doctrine most true, which I had read out of Mr. Rogers's book, "That God is most sweet, when the world is most bitter."

In this manner my father lay until the ninth of February, 1660,-61, by which time he was consumed to an anatomy, having nothing left but skin to cover his bones; yet he often would say, "That the very sound of liberty would so revive him, that it would put strength into his limbs." But it was not the will of Him, to whom we say, "Thy will be done," to have it so.

His discourse and charge to his son before his death.

The evening before his death, he called to me to come near his bed-side, and to sit down by him; at which time also I had a strong fever upon me. This done, he told me, "That he sensibly felt his life departing from him, and was assured, that this night God would deliver him out of this captivity; and that he never thought, in all his life-time, that death could be so easy and welcome to any man, as God had made it to be to him;

and the joys he now felt in himself, he wanted utterance to express to me." He told me, "These were the last words that ever he should speak to me, and bid me well regard, and be sure to remember them, and tell them to my brother and sister, if it pleased God, as he hoped it would, to bring us together in England, where I should find all things settled to my contentation;" relating to me after what manner he had settled his estate, by letters which he sent from Cotiar.

In the first place, and above all, he charged me to serve God, and with a circumspect care to walk in his ways; and then he said, God would bless me and prosper me. And next, he bade me have a care of my brother and sister. And lastly, he gave me a special charge to beware of strong drink, and lewd company, which, as by experience many had found, would change me into another man, so that I should not be myself. It deeply grieved him, he said, to see me in captivity in the prime of my years; and so much the more, because I had chosen rather to suffer captivity with him than to disobey his command, which now he was heartily sorry for, that he had so commanded me, but bade me not repent of obeying the command of my father, seeing for this very thing, he said, God would bless me, and bid me be assured of it, which he doubted not of, viz. that God Almighty would deliver me; which at that time I could not tell how to conceive, seeing but little sign of any such matter. But, blessed be the Name of my most gracious God, who hath so bountifully sustained me ever since, in the land of my captivity, and preserved me alive to see my deceased father's word fulfilled! And truly I was so far from repenting, that I had obeyed the command of my father, and performed the oath and promise I made unto him upon it, that

it rather rejoiced me to see that God had given me so much grace.

But though it was a trouble to him, that by his means I was thus made a captive; yet it was a great comfort to him, he said, to have his own son sit by him on his death-bed, and by his hands to be buried; whereas otherwise he could expect no other but to be eaten by dogs, or wild beasts. Then he gave me order concerning his burial—that having no winding sheet, I should pull his shirt over his head, and slip his breeches over his feet, and so wrap him up in the mat he laid upon; and then ceased speaking, and fell into a slumber. This was about eight or nine o'clock in the evening, and about two or three in the morning he gave up the ghost, February the 9th, 1660; being very sensible unto the very instant of his departure. His death.

According to his own appointment, with my own hands I wrapped him up ready for the grave; myself being very sick and weak, and, as I thought, ready to follow after him. Having none but the black boy with me, I bad him ask the people of the town for help to carry my father to the grave, because I could not understand their language; who immediately brought forth a great rope they used to tie their cattle withal, therewith to drag him by the neck into the woods, saying—"They could afford me no other help, unless I would pay for it." This insolency of the heathen grieved me much to see; neither could I, with the boy alone, do what was necessary for his burial, though we had been able to carry the corpse, having not wherewithal to dig a grave, and the ground very dry and hard: yet it was some comfort to me, that I had so much ability as to hire one to help; which at first I would not have spared to have done, had I known their meaning. And burial

The place where he lies.

By this means, I thank God, in so decent a manner as our present condition would permit, I laid my father's body in the grave; most of which I digged with my own hands—the place being in a wood, on the north side of a corn field, where heretofore we had used often to walk, going up to Handapoul: that division, as I have said, being called Bonder Coos-wat, because formerly it had belonged to the revenues, or jointure of the queen; Bonder implying something relating to the king. It lies towards the north-west of the middle of the Island, in the county of Hotcourly.

Thus was I left desolate, sick, and in captivity, having no earthly comforter, none but only He who looks down from Heaven to hear the groaning of the prisoners, and to shew himself a father of the fatherless, and a present help to them that have no helper.

Upon the captain's death, a message sent his son from court.

The news of my father's death being carried to court, presently two messengers were sent from thence to see me, and to know of me—how, and in what manner my father died, and what he had left: which was a gold ring, a pagoda, and some two or three dollars, and a few old clothes; God knows but a very little, yet it scared me not a little—fearing they would take it away from me, and my want being so great; but they had no such order nor intent. But the chief occasion of their coming was, to renew the former order unto the people of that town; that they should be kind to, and give me good victuals, lest I might die also as my father had done: so for a while I had better entertainment than formerly.

CHAP. III.

How I lived after my Father's Death, and of the Condition of the Rest of the English; and how it fared with them; and of our Interview.

I STILL remained where I was before, having none but the black boy and my ague to bear me company. Never found I more pleasure in reading, meditating, and praying, than now; for there was nothing else could administer to me any comfort, neither had I any other business to be occupied about. I had read my two books so often over, that I had them almost by heart; for my custom was, after dinner, to take a book and go into the fields, and sit under a tree, reading and meditating until evening—excepting the day when my ague came; for then I could scarce hold up my head. Often have I prayed, as Elijah under the juniper tree, that God would take away my life—for it was a burthen to me. His chief employment is reading.

At length, it pleased God, my ague began to be a little moderate; and so by degrees it wore away, after it had held me sixteen months. He loses his ague.

Provisions falling short with me, though rice, I thank God, I never wanted; and monies also growing low, as well to help out a meal as for recreation, sometimes I went with an angle to

How he met with an English Bible in that country.

catch small fish in the brooks, the aforesaid boy being with me. It chanced as I was fishing, an old man passed by, and seeing me, asked of my boy, "If I could read a book?" He answered "Yes." "The reason I ask," said the old man, "is, because I have one I got when the Portuguese lost Columbo; and, if your master please to buy it, I will sell it him:" which, when I heard of, I bid my boy go to his house with him, which was not far off, and bring it to me, making no great account of the matter, supposing it might be some Portuguese book.

The boy having formerly served the English, knew the book; and, as soon as he had got it in his hand, came running with it, calling out to me, "It is a Bible!" It startled me to hear him mention the name of a Bible, for I neither had one, nor scarcely could ever think to see one; upon which I flung down my angle, and went to meet him. The first place the book opened in, after I took it in my hand, was the sixteenth chapter of the Acts; and the first place my eye pitched on, was the thirtieth and one and thirtieth verses—where the jailor asked St. Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" And he answered, saying—"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thine house."

Struck into a great passion at the sight of the book.

The sight of this book so rejoiced me, and affrighted me together, that I cannot say which passion was greater; the joy, for that I had got sight of a Bible, or the fear, that I had not enough to buy it; having then but one pagoda in the world, which I willingly would have given for it, had it not been for my boy, who dissuaded me from giving so much; alleging my necessity for money many other ways, and undertaking to procure the book for a far meaner price, provided I would seem to

slight it in the sight of the old man. This counsel after I considered, I approved of: my urgent necessities earnestly craving, and my ability being but very small to relieve the same: and however, I thought I could give my piece of gold at the last cast, if other means should fail.

I hope the readers will excuse me, that I hold them so long upon this single passage; for it did so affect me then, that I cannot lightly pass it over as often as I think of it, or have occasion to mention it.

The sight indeed of this Bible so overjoyed me, as if an angel had spoken to me from heaven; to see that my most gracious God had prepared such an extraordinary blessing for me, which I did, and ever shall look upon as miraculous; to bring unto me a Bible in my own native language, and that in such a remote part of the world—where his Name was not so much as known, and where any Englishman was never known to have been before. I looked upon it, as somewhat of the same nature with the Ten Commandments he had given the Israelites out of heaven: it being the thing, for want whereof I had so often mourned, nay, and shed tears too; and, than the enjoyment whereof, there could be no greater joy in the world to me.

Upon the sight of it I left off fishing; God having brought a fish to me that my soul had longed for—and now how to get it, and enjoy the same, all the powers of my soul were employed. I gave God hearty thanks that he had brought it so near me, and most earnestly prayed that he would bestow it on me. Now, it being well towards evening, and not having wherewithal to buy it about me, I departed home, telling the

He casts with himself how to get it.

old man, that in the morning I would send my boy to buy it of him.

All that night I could take no rest for thinking on it, fearing lest I might be disappointed of it. In the morning, as soon as it was day, I sent the boy with a knit cap he had made for me, to buy the book, praying in my heart for good success, which it pleased God to grant; for that cap purchased it, and the boy brought it to me to my great joy, which did not a little comfort me over all my afflictions.

Where the rest of the English were bestowed.

Having said all this concerning my father and myself, it will be time now to think of the rest of our poor countrymen, and to see what is become of them: they were carried into the county of Hotteracourly, westward from the city of Candy, and placed singly, according to the king's order aforesaid, some four, some six miles distant one from the other. It was the king's command concerning them, that the people should give them victuals, and look after them; so they carried each man from house to house to eat, as their turns came to give them victuals—and where they supped, there they lodged that night: their bedding was only a mat upon the ground.

Kept from one another a good while, but after permitted to see each other.

They knew not they were so near to one another a great while, till at length Almighty God was pleased by their grief and heaviness to move those heathen to pity, and take compassion on them; so that they did bring some of them to one another, which joy was but abortive; for no sooner did they begin to feel the comfort of one another's company, but immediately their keepers called upon them, to go from whence they came; fearing they might consult and run away, al-

though Columbo, the nearest port they could fly to, was above two days journey from them. But as it is with wild beasts beginning to grow tame, their liberty increaseth; so it happened to our men—so that at length they might go and see one another at their pleasures, and were less and less watched and regarded. and seeing they did not attempt to run away, they made no matter of it, if they stayed two or three days one with the other.

They all wondered much to see themselves in this condition; to be kept only to eat, and the people of the country giving it unto them, daily expecting when they would put them to work, which they never did, nor dared to do: for the king's order was to feed them well only, and to look after them until he pleased to send for them. This, after some time, made them to change their minds, and not to think themselves slaves any more—but the inhabitants of the land to be their servants, in that they laboured to sustain them.

No manner of work laid upon them.

Which made them to begin to domineer, and would not be content, unless they had such victuals as pleased them; and oftentimes used to throw the pots, victuals, and all at their heads that brought them, which they patiently would bear.

And as they lived here longer, they knew better what privileges they had in belonging unto the king, and being maintained by virtue of his command; and their privileges they made use of to no purpose, as I shall relate an instance or two by and bye; and shewed their English metal.

They begin to pluck up their hearts.

Victuals was the only thing allowed them, but no clothes:

What course they took for clothes.

by this time the clothes they had were almost worn out. This put them to a study what course to take to procure more, when those on their backs were gone. The readiest way that they could devise was this: that whereas they used to take their victuals brought to them ready dressed, they should now take them raw; and so to pinch somewhat out of their bellies, to save to buy clothes for their backs. And so accordingly they concluded to do; and by the favour that God gave them in the sight of the people, by alleging the innocency of their cause, and the extremity of their present condition, having not the least ability to help or relieve themselves, they consented to give them two measures of rice a day each man; one of which is as much as any man can eat in a day, so that the other was to serve for advance towards clothes; for, besides rice, they gave them to eat with it salt, pepper, limes, herbs, pumpkins, cocoa-nuts, flesh a little: these and such like things were their constant fare.

Their fare

What employment they afterwards followed.

And thus they made a shift to live for some years, until some of them had an insight in knitting caps, by whom all afterwards learned, and it proved to be the chief means and help we all had to relieve our wants. The ordinary price we sold these caps for, was ninepence a piece in value English money, the thread standing us in about threepence; but at length, we plying hard our new learned trade, caps began to abound, and trading grew dead, so that we could not sell them at the former price; which brought several of our nation to great want.

How the English domineered.

The English began now to pluck up their hearts; and, though they were entered into a new condition, they kept their old spirits, especially considering they were the king's men, and

quartered by his special order upon the people. When they had obtained to have their allowance raw, if any brought them not their full due, they would go in and plunder their houses of such goods as they found there, and keep them, until they came and brought them their complete allowance to redeem their goods back again.

What satisfaction one of them received from a potter.

Some of our Englishmen have proceeded further yet. One for example went to buy pots of a potter; who, because he would not let him have them at his own price, fell to quarrel, in which the Englishman met with some blows, which he complained of to the magistrate, as being a person that belonged unto the king, and therefore claimed better usage. And the magistrate condemned the potter as guilty in lifting up his hand against him, and sent some of his soldiers to bind him, and then bade the Englishman go and content himself, by paying him in the same coin again, as he had served our countryman, which he did until he was satisfied; and, moreover, ordered him to take the pots he came to buy, and pay nothing. But the law was not so satisfied neither, for the soldiers laid on many blows besides.

A scuffle between the English and natives.

Another time at a certain feast, as they were drinking and wanting wine, they sent money to buy more; but the seller refused to give it them for their money, which they took so heinously, that they unanimously concluded to go and take it by force. Away they went each man with his staff in his hand, and entered the house, and began to drink; which the people not liking of, gathered their forces together, and by blows began to resist them. But the Englishmen bravely behaved themselves, and broke several of their pates; who, with the blood about their ears, went to the city to complain to the great men.

They demanded of them—"If they had ever sold them wine before?" They answered, "Yes." They asked them again, "Why then did they refuse to sell them now?" And that they were well served by the English for denying them drink for their money; and so sent them away laughing at them. Our men got two or three black and blue blows, but they came home with their bellies full of drink for their pains.

The author after a year sees his countrymen

But to return unto myself. It was a full year after my father died, before I had sight of any of my countrymen and fellow-prisoners. Then John Gregory, with much ado, obtained leave to come and see me, which did exceedingly rejoice me; for a great satisfaction it was, both to see a countryman, and also to hear of the welfare of the rest. But he could not be permitted to stay with me above one day. Until then, I knew not punctually where the rest of my countrymen were; but having heard that they were within a day's journey of me, I never ceased importuning the people of the town where I dwelt, to let me go and see them; which, though very loth, yet at last they granted. Being arrived at the nearest Englishman's house, I was joyfully received, and the next day he went and called some of the rest of our countrymen that were near; so that there were some seven or eight of us met together.

Their conference and entertainment.

We gave God thanks for his great mercies towards us, being then, as we did confess, in a far better condition than we could have expected. They were now no more like the prisoners I left them, but were become house-keepers, and knitters of caps, and had changed their habit from breeches to clouts, like the Chingulays. They entertained me with very good cheer in their houses, beyond what I did expect.

My money at the same time almost gone, and clothes in the same condition, it was high time for me now to take some course in hand to get more; therefore I took some advice with them about knitting, my boy having skill therein. Likewise they advised me to take my victuals raw, wherein they found great profit. For all this while, here being no signs of releasing us, it concerned me now to bethink myself how I should live for the future; for neither had I, any more than my countrymen, any allowance for clothes, but victuals only. He consults with his countrymen for a future livelihood.

Having stayed here some two or three days, we did take leave of one another, hoping to see one another oftener, since now we knew each other's habitations; and I departed to my house, having a keeper with me.

By this time I began to speak the language of the country, whereby I was enabled the better to speak my mind unto the people that brought me my victuals, which was henceforward not to boil my rice, but to bring it raw, according to the quantity that the other Englishmen had. This occasioned a great deal of disputing and reasoning between us. They alleged, "That I was not as they, being the captain's son, and they but his servants; and therefore, that it was ordered by the great men at court, that my victuals should be daily brought unto me, whereas they went always from house to house for theirs; neither was it fitting for me," they said, "to employ myself in such an inferior office to dress my own meat, being a man that the king had notice of by name, and very suddenly, before I should be aware of it, would send for me into his presence, where I should be highly promoted to some place of honour." In the mean time, they told me, as pretending to give me good coun- The difficulty he met with of having raw rice.

sel, "that it was more for my credit and repute to have my provisions brought unto me ready dressed, as they were before."

He reasons with the people about his allowance.

Although I was yet but a novice in the country, and knew not much of the people, yet plain reason told me, that it was not so much for my good and credit that they pleaded, as for their own benefit: wherefore I returned them this answer— "That if, as they said, I was greater in quality than the rest, and so held in their estimation, it would be but reason to demand a greater allowance; whereas, I desired no more than the other Englishmen had; and, as for the toil and trouble of dressing of it, that would be none to me, for my boy had nothing else to do." And then I alleged several inconveniencies in bringing my victuals ready boiled; as first, that it was not dressed according to my diet, and many times not brought in due season, so that I could not eat when I was an hungry; and the last and chief reason of all was, that I might save a little to serve my necessity of clothing; and rather than want clothes for my back, I must pinch a little out of my belly, and so both go share and share alike. And so at length, thanks be to God, I obtained, though with much ado, to get two measures of rice per day for myself, and one for my boy; also cocoa-nuts, pumpkins, herbs, limes, and such like, enough, besides pepper and salt: and sometimes hens, eggs, or flesh—rice being the main thing they stand upon; for other things they refuse not to give what they have.

He builds him a house

Now having settled all business about my allowance, my next concern was to look after a house more convenient; for my present one was too small to dress my victuals in, and to sleep in too. Thereabouts was a garden of cocoa-nut trees, belonging unto the king—a pleasant situation; this place I made

choice of to build me a house in, and discovering my desire to the people, they consented, and came and built it for me; but, before it was finished, their occasions called them away; but my boy and I made an end of it, and whitened the walls with lime, according to my own country fashion; but in doing this I committed a capital offence; for none may white their houses with lime, that being peculiar to royal houses and temples. But being a stranger nothing was made of it, because I did it in ignorance; had it been a native that had so done, it is most probable it would have cost him his head, or at least a great fine.

Being settled in my new house, I began to keep hogs and hens; which, by God's blessing, thrived very well with me, and were a great help unto me. I had also a great benefit by living in this garden: for all the cocoa-nuts that fell down they gave me, which afforded me oil to burn in the lamp, and also to fry my meat in; which oil, being new, is but little inferior to this country butter. Now I learned to knit caps, which skill I quickly attained unto; and, by God's blessing upon the same, I obtained great help and relief thereby. **He follows business and thrives.**

In this manner we all lived, seeing but very little sign that we might build upon, to look for liberty. The chief of our hopes was, that in process of time, when we were better acquainted, we might run away; which some of our people attempted to do too soon, before they knew well which way to go, and were taken by the inhabitants: for it is the custom of the Chingulays to suspect all white people they meet travelling in the country, to be runaways, and to examine them; and, if they cannot give satisfactory answers, they will lay hold cf them, **Some attempted running away, but were catched.**

and carry them back unto the city; where they will keep them prisoners under a guard of soldiers, in an open house like a barn, with a little victuals sometimes, and sometimes with none at all; where they have no other remedy to help themselves but begging: and in this condition they may lie perhaps for their life time, being so kept for a spectacle unto the people.

Little encouragement for those that bring back runaways.

Though the common way whereby the king gratifies such as catch runaways and bring them up, is not over acceptable; for they are appointed to feed and watch them until he calls for them to be brought before him, at which time his promise is bountifully to reward them. But these promises I never knew performed; neither doth he perhaps ever think of it after. For when the king is made acquainted with the matter, the men that have brought up the prisoner, are in a manner as bad prisoners themselves, not daring to go home to their houses without his leave, but there they must remain. After some years stay, the common manner is, for them to give a fee to the governor of the country, and he will license them to go home, which they must be contented with, instead of the promised reward.

CHAP. IV.

Concerning some other Englishmen detained in that Country.

IN the same captivity with ourselves, on this Island, was another company of Englishmen, who were taken about a year and an half before us, viz. in the year 1758: they were thirteen in number, whose numbers were as follow; viz. Mr. William Vassal, John Merginson, Thomas March ,Thomas Kirby, Rich. Jelf, Gamaliel Gardiner, William Day, Thomas Stapleton, Henry Man, Hugh Smart, Daniel Holstein, an Hamburgher, James Gony, and Henry Bingham. The occasion of their seizure was thus:—the ship these men belonged unto was the Persia merchant, Captain Francis Johnson, commander, which was lost upon the Maldives Islands, but they escaped in their boats; and, passing along by this land, went on shore to recruit and buy provisions, and so were taken. The Chingulays that took them, plundered them of what they had, except their clothes. Yet one of them, John Merginson by name, having cunningly hid his money about him, saved it from the heathen, but from his own countrymen he could not; some of whom knowing of it, set upon him and robbed him of it: but it did them little good, for the king hearing of it, sent and robbed the robbers.

The Persia merchant's men captives before us.

Plundered by the natives.

These men, thus seized, were carried up before the king; of whom he demanded, whether the English had wars with the

Brought up to the king.

Hollanders? they answered, No; or if the English could beat them? they answered—They could, and had done it lately. Then he gave order to give them all some clothes, and to Mr. William Vassal, being the chief of them, a double portion; and out of them made choice of two lads, whom afterwards he sent, and took into his court. Their honours and their ends we shall see by and bye. They were all placed in the city of Candy, and each of them had a new mat given him to sleep on, and their diet was victuals dressed and brought them twice a day from the king's own palace: they had clothes also distributed to them at another time.

So that these men had the advantage of us; for we neither had mats, nor clothes, nor had the honour of being ever brought into the king's presence.

They hoped to obtain liberty, but were mistaken.

This civil reception, upon the first coming up into the city, put these Persia merchantmen in hope, that the king would give them their liberty. There was at that time an old Portuguese father, Padre Vergonse by name, living in the city; with him they discoursed concerning the probability of their liberty, and that the favours the king had shewn them, seemed to be good signs of it; but he told them the plain truth—that it was not customary there to release white men: for saying which, they railed at him, calling him Popish dog, and Jesuitical rogue, supposing he spoke as he wished it might be; but afterward, to their grief, they found it to be true as he told them.

A ridiculous action of these men.

Their entertainment was excellently good, according to the poor condition of the country, but they thought it otherwise, very mean, and not according to the king's order: therefore,

that the king might be informed how they were abused, each man took the limb of a hen in his hand, and marched rank and file in order through the streets with it in their hands to the court, as a sign to the great men, whereby they might see how ill they were served; thinking hereby the king might come to hear of their misusage, and so they might have order to be fed better afterwards. But this proved sport to the noblemen, who well knew the fare of the country, laughing at their ignorance, to complain where they had so little cause; and indeed afterwards, they themselves laughed at this action of theirs, and were half ashamed of it, when they came to a better understanding of the nature of the country's diet.

Yet notwithstanding being not used to such short commons of flesh, though they had rice in abundance, and having no money to buy more, they had a desire to kill some cows, that they might eat their bellies full of beef; but made it somewhat a point of conscience, whether it might be lawful or not, to take them without leave: upon which they apply themselves to the old father aforesaid, desiring him to solve this case of conscience, who was very ready to give them a dispensation; and told them, "That forasmuch as the Chingulays were their enemies, and had taken their bodies, it was very lawful for them to satisfy their bodies with their goods." And the better to animate them in this design, bid them bring him a piece, that he might partake with them. So being encouraged by the old father, they went on boldly in their intended business.

They had a mind to beef, and how they got it.

Now if you would have an account of the metal and manfulness of these men, as you have already had a taste of ours, take this passage. The jack fruit the king's officers often gather,

A passage of the courage of the men.

wheresoever it grows, and give to the king's elephants, and they may gather it in any man's grounds, without the owner's leave; being for the king's use. Now these Englishmen were appointed to dwell in a house, that formerly belonged unto a nobleman, whom the king had cut off, and seized upon it. In the ground belonging to this house stood a jack tree, full of fruit: some of the king's men came thither to gather some of them to feed the elephants; but, although the English had free liberty to gather what they could eat, or desire, yet they would permit none but themselves to meddle with them, but took the officers by the shoulders, and turned them out of the garden; although there were more a great many than they could tell what to do with. The great men were so civil, that, notwithstanding this affront, they laid no punishment upon them: but the event of this was, that a few days after they were removed from this house to another, where was a garden, but no trees in it; and, because they would not allow the king a few, they lost all themselves.

Two of his company taken into court.

I mentioned before, two lads of this company, whom the king chose out of for his own service; their names were Hugh Smart, and Henry Man. These being taken into his court, obtained great favour and honour from him, as to be always in his presence; and very often he would kindly and familiarly talk with them concerning their country, what it afforded, and of their king and his strength for war: thus they lived in his favour for some time.

The one out of favour; his end.

Till at length Hugh Smart having a desire to hear news concerning England, privately got to the speech of a Dutch ambassador; of which the king had notice, but would not believe it; supposing the information was given him out of envy to

his favourite, but commanded privately to watch him, and if he went again, to catch him there; which he, not being aware of, went again, and was catched: at which, the king was very angry; for he allows none to come to the speech of ambassadors, much less one that served in his presence, and heard and saw all that passed in court. But yet the king dealt very favourably with him; for had it been a Chingulay, there is nothing more sure, than that he should have died for it. But this Englishman's punishment was only to be sent away and kept a prisoner in the mountains without chains, and ordered him to be well used there; where indeed he lived better content than in the king's palace. He took a wife here, and had one son by her, and afterwards died by a mischance; which was thus—as he was gathering a jack from the tree by a crook, it fell down upon his side, and bruised him so, that it killed him.

The other out of favour, and lamentable death.

Henry Man, the other, yet remained in favour, and was promoted to be chief over all the king's servants that attended on him in his palace. It happened one day that he broke one of the king's China dishes, which made him so sore afraid, that he fled for sanctuary into a vehar, a temple where the chief priests always dwell, and hold their consultations. This did not a little displease the king; this act of his supposing him to be of opinion that those priests were able to secure him against the king's displeasure. However he, shewing reverence to their order, would not violently fetch him from thence, but sent a kind message to the Englishman, bidding him not to be afraid for so small a matter as a dish; (and it is probable had he not added this fault, he might have escaped without punishment) and that he should come and act in his place as formerly. At which message he came forth; and immediately as the king had given

order, they took hold of him, and bound his arms above the elbows behind, which is their fashion of binding men: in which manner he lay all that night, being bound so hard, that his arms swelled, and the ropes cut through the flesh into the bones. The next day, the king commanded a nobleman to loose the ropes off his arms, and put chains on his legs, and keep him in his house, and there feed him and cure him.

Thus he lay some six months, and was cured, but had no strength in his arms, and then was taken into his office again, and had as much favour from the king as before; who seemed much to lament him for his folly, thus to procure his own ruin.

Not long after, he again offended the king; which as it is reported was thus. A Portuguese had been sent for to the city, to be employed in the king's service; to which service he had no stomach at all, and was greatly afraid of, as he justly might be. For the avoiding therefore of it, he sends a letter to this English courtier, wherein he entreated him to use his interest to excuse him to the king. The Englishman could not read the letter, being writ in the Portuguese tongue, but gave it to another to read; which, when he knew the contents of, thought it not safe for him to meddle in that business, and so concealed the letter. The person to whom the Englishman had given it to read, some time after informed the king thereof: whereupon both the Portuguese that sent the letter, and the Englishman to whom it was sent, and the third person that read it, because he informed no sooner, were all three at one time, and in one place, torn in pieces by elephants.

After this execution, the king, supposing that we might be

either discontented in ourselves, or discountenanced by the people of the land, sent special order to all parts where we dwelt, that we should be of good cheer, and not be discouraged, neither abused by the natives.

The king sends special order concerning their good usage.

Thus jealous is the king of letters, and allows none to come or go. We have seen how dear it cost poor Henry Man;—Mr. William Vassal, another of the Persia-merchant men, was therefore more wary of some letters he had, and came off better.

This man had received several letters, and it was known abroad that he had; which he fearing lest the king should hear of, thought it most convenient and safe to go to the court and present them himself, that so he might plead in his own defence to the king, which he did. He acknowledged to him that he had received letters, and that they came to his hands a pretty while ago, but withal pretended excuses and reasons to clear himself;—as first, "That when he received them, he knew not that it was against the law and manner of the country: and when he did know, he took council of a Portuguese priest, who was now dead, being old, and as he thought well-experienced in the country. But he advised him to defer a while the carrying them unto the king until a more convenient season. After this he did attempt, he said, to bring them unto the king, but could not be permitted to have entrance through the watches; so that until now he could not have opportunity to present them."

Mr. Vassal's prudence upon the receipt of letters.

The king at the hearing hereof, seemed not to be displeased in the least, but bid him read them, which he did in the English

The king bids him read his letters.

language, as they were writ; and the king sat very attentive, as if he had understood every word. After they were read, the king gave Vassal a letter he had intercepted, sent to us from Sir Edward Winter, then agent at Fort St. George, and asked the news and contents thereof, which Mr. Vassal informed him at large of. It was concerning the victory we had gained over the Dutch, when Obdam, Admiral of Holland, was slain, and concerning the number of our ships in that fight, being there specified to be an hundred and fifty sail. The king enquired much after the number of guns and men they carried. The number of men he computed to be, one ship with another, about three hundred per ship. At that rate, the king demanded of him, how many that was in all, which Mr. Vassal went about to cast up in the sand with his finger; but, before he had made his figures, the king had done it by head, and bid him desist, saying it was 45,000.

The king pleased to hear of England's victory over Holland.

This news of the Hollanders overthrow, and the English victory, much delighted the king, and he enquired into it very particularly. Then the king pretended he would send a letter to the English nation, and bade Mr. Vassal inform him of a trusty bearer, which he was very forward to do, and named one of the best which he had made trial of. One of the great men there present, objected against him, saying, he was insufficient, and asked him if he knew no other: at which Vassal suspected their design, which was, to learn who had brought those letters to him, and so framed his answer accordingly, which was, that he knew no other.

Private discourse between the king and Vassal.

There was much other discourse passed between the king and him at this time, in the Portuguese tongue; which, what it was,

I could never get out of him, the king having commanded him to keep it secret; and he saith, he hath sworn to himself not to divulge it, till he is out of the king's hands. At parting, the king told him for secrecy, he would send him home privately, or otherwise he would have dismissed him with drums and honour. But after this the king never sent for him again, and the man that he named as fit and able to carry the king's letter, was sent away prisoner to be kept in chains in the country. It is supposed that they concluded him to have been the man that brought Vassal his letters. And thus much of the captivity and condition of the Persia-merchant men.

CHAP. V.

Concerning the Means that were used for our Deliverance, and what happened to us in the Rebellion, and how we were settled afterwards.

Means made to the king for our liberty.

ALL of us in this manner remained until the year 1664; at which time arrived a letter, on our behalf to the king, from the Right Worshipful Sir Edward Winter, governor of Fort St. George, and agent there. The Dutch ambassador also at that time, by a commission from the governor of Columba, treated with the king for us. With Sir Edward's message the king was much pleased, and with the Dutch's mediation so prevailed with, that he promised he would send us away.

Upon which they all met at the city.

Upon this, he commanded us all to be brought to the city; whither when we came, we were very joyful not only upon the hopes of our liberty, but also upon the sight of one another; for several of us had not seen the others since we were first parted. Here also we met with the Persia-merchant men, whom, until this time we had not seen; so that we were nine and twenty English in all.

Word sent them from the court, that they had their liberty.

Some few days after our arrival at the city, we were all called to the court; at which time, standing all of us in one of the palace court-yards, the nobles, by command from the king, came forth and told us, that it was His Majesty's pleasure to

grant unto us our liberty, and to send us home to our country, and that we should not any more look upon ourselves as prisoners or detained men, at which we bowed our heads and thanked His Majesty. They told us, moreover, that the king was intended to send us either with the Dutch ambassador, or by the boat which Sir Edward Winter had sent; and that it was His Majesty's good will to grant us our choice. We humbly referred it to His Majesty's pleasure; they answered, His Majesty could and would do his pleasure, but his will was to know our minds. After a short consultation we answered, since it was His Majesty's pleasure to grant us our choice, with many thanks and obeisance, we chose to go with the Dutch ambassador, fearing the boat's insufficiency, she having, as we were well sensible, laid there a great while; and, if we had chosen the boat, the danger of going that way might have served them for a put off to us, and a plea to detain us still out of care of us. And again, had we refused the ambassador's kindness at this time, for the future, if these things succeeded not with us now, we could never have expected any more aid or friendship from that nation.

In the next place, they told us, it was the king's pleasure to let us understand, that all those that were willing to stay and serve His Majesty should have very great rewards, as towns, monies, slaves, and places of honour, conferred upon them; which all in general refused. All in general refuse the king's service.

Then we were bidden to absent while they returned our answers to the king. By and by there came order to call us in one at a time, where the former promises were repeated to every one of us of great favours, honours, and rewards, from the king,

to those that were willing to stay with him: and after each one had given his answer, he was sent into a corner in the court, and then another called, and so all round, one after another; they inquiring particularly concerning each man's trade and office—handicrafts-men and trumpeters being most desired by the king. We being thus particularly examined again, there was not one of us was tempted by the king's rewards, but all in general refused the king's honourable employment, choosing rather to go to our native country: by which we purchased the king's displeasure.

Commanded still to wait at the palace, during which, a rebellion breaks out

After this they told us we must wait at the palace gate daily; it being the king's pleasure, that we should make our personal appearance before him: in this manner we waited many days. At length happened a thing which he least suspected; viz. a general rebellion of his people against him, who assaulted his palace in the night; but their hearts failed them, daring not to enter into the apartment where his person was; for if they had had courage enough, they might have taken him there: for he stayed in his palace until the morninig, and then fled into the mountains, and escaped their hands; but more through their cowardliness than his valour. This rebellion I have related at large in the second part; whither he that desires to know more of it may have recourse: only I shall mention here a few things concerning ourselves, who were gotten into the midst of these broils and combustions, being all of us now waiting upon the king in the city.

They are in the midst of it, and in great danger.

It was a great and marvellous mercy of Almighty God, to bring us safe through these dangers; for it so happened all along that we were in the very midst. Before they gave the assault on

the king's palace, they were consulting to lay hands on us, fearing lest we might be prejudicial to their business, in joining to the help and assistance of the king against them; for, though we were but few in comparison, yet the name of white men was somewhat dreadful to them. Whereupon at first their counsels were to cut us off; but others among them advised that it would be better to let us alone; for that we being ignorant of their designs, as indeed we were, and at quiet in our several lodgings, could not be provided to hurt or endanger them; but otherwise if they should lay hands on us, it would certainly come to the king's ears and alarm him, and then all would be frustrated and overthrown. This some of their own party have related to us since. These counsels were not given out of any secret good will any of them bore to us (as I believe), but proceeded from the over-ruling hand of God, who put those things into their hearts for our safety and preservation. The people of the city, whence the king fled, ran away also, leaving their houses and goods behind them; where we found good prey and plunder, being permitted to ransack the houses of all such as were fled away with the king.

The rebels having driven away the king, and marching to the city of Candy to the prince, carried us along with them; the chief of their party telling us, that we should now be of good cheer, for what they had done upon very good advisement they had done, the king's ill government having given an occasion to it; who went about to destroy both them and their country, and particularly insisted upon such things as might be most plausible to strangers; such as keeping ambassadors, discouraging trade, detaining of foreigners that come upon his land, besides his cruelties towards themselves that were his natural people. All

The rebels take the English with them.

which, they told us, they had been informed, was contrary to the government of other countries; and now so soon as their business was settled, they assured us, they would detain none that were minded to go to their own countries.

They design to engage the English with them.

Being now at Candy, on Christmas-day, of all the days in the year, they sent to call us to the court, and gave us some money and clothes first, to make us the more willing to take arms, which they intended them to deliver unto us, and to go with them upon a design, to fall upon the old king in the place whither he was fled. But in the very interim of time, God being merciful unto us, the prince with his aunt fled; which so amazed and discouraged them, that the money and clothes which they were distributing to us, and other strangers, to gain us over to them, they scattered about the court, and fled themselves: and now followed nothing but cutting one another's throats, to make themselves appear the more loyal subjects, and make amends for their former rebellion.

They resolve neither to meddle or make.

We, for our parts, little thinking in what danger we were, fell in to scramble among the rest, to get what we could of the monies that were strewed about, being then in great necessity and want; for the allowance which formerly we had, was in this disturbance lost; and so we remained without it for some three months, the want of which this money did help to supply. Having gotten what we could at the court, we made way to get out of the hurly burly to our lodgings; intending, as we were strangers, and prisoners, neither to meddle, nor make, on the one side or the other; being well satisfied, if God would but permit us quietly to sit, and eat such a Christmas dinner together as he had prepared for us.

For our parts we had no other dealings with the rebels, than to desire them to permit us to go to our native country, which liberty they promised we should not want long: but, being sent for by them to the court, we durst not but go, and they giving us such things as we wanted, we could not refuse to take them: but the day being turned, put us into great fear, doubting how the king would take it at our hands, from whom we knew this could not be hid.

The day being turned they fear the king.

Into our houses we got safely; but no sooner were we there, but immediately we were called again by a great man, who had drawn out his men, and stood in the field. This man we thought had been one of the rebels, who, to secure himself upon this change, had intended to run away down to Columbo, to the Dutch; which made us repair to him the more cheerfully, leaving our meat a roasting on the spit. But it proved otherwise; for no sooner had he gotten us unto him, but he proclaimed himself for the old king, and forthwith he and his company taking us with him, marched away to fight or seize the rebels, but meeting none, went into the city, and there dismissed us, saying, "He would acquaint the king, how willing and ready we were to fight for him, if need had required," although, God knows, it was the least of our thoughts and intents; yet God brought it to pass for our good, for when the king was informed of what we had received of the rebels, this piece of good service that we had done, or rather were supposed to have done, was also told unto him; at the hearing of which, himself justified us to be innocent, saying, "Since my absence, who was there that would give them victuals? And, "It was mere want that made them to take what they did." Thus the words of the king's own mouth

But he justifies them.

acquitted us; and, when the sword devoured on every side, yet, by the providence of God, not one hair of our heads perished.

They are driven to beg in the highways.

The tumults being appeased, and the rebellion vanished, the king was settled in his throne again. And all this happened in five days time. We were now greatly necessitated for food, and wanted some fresh orders from the king's mouth for our future subsistence; so that having no other remedy, we were fain to go and lay in the high way that leads to the city a begging; for the people would not let us go any nearer towards the king, as we would have done. There therefore we lay, that the king might come to the knowledge of us, and give command for our allowance again; by which means we obtained our purpose: for, having laid there some two months, the king was pleased to appoint our quarters in the country as formerly, not mentioning a word of sending us away, as he had made us believe before the rebellion.

Sent into new quarters there, and their pensions settled again.

Now we were all sent away indeed, but not into our own country, but into new quarters; which being God would have to be no better, we were glad it was so well, being sore a weary of laying in this manner. For some three months time we had no manner of allowance. We were all now placed one in a town as formerly, together with the Persia-merchant men also, who hitherto had lived in the city of Candy, and had their provisions brought them out of the king's palace ready dressed. These were now sent away with us into the country; and as strict a charge was given for our good entertainment as before.

Fall to trading, and have more freedom.

We were thus dispersed about the towns here one and there another, for the more convenient receiving our allowance, and

for the greater ease of the people. And now we were far better to pass than heretofore, having the language, and being acquainted with the manners and customs of the people, and had the same proportion of victuals, and the like respect as formerly. And now they fall into employment as they please, either husbandry or merchandizing, or knitting of caps, being altogether free to do what they will themselves, and go where they will, excepting running away; and, for that end, we are not permitted to go down to the sea, but we may travel all about the country, and no man regards us; for, though the people some of the first years of our captivity would scarcely let us go any whither, and had an eye upon us afterwards; yet, in process of time, all their suspicions of our going away wore off; especially when several of the English had built them houses, and others had taken them wives, by whom they had children, to the number of eighteen living, when I came away.

Having said all this in general of the English people there, I will now continue a further account of myself.

CHAP. VI.

A Continuation of the Author's Condition after the Rebellion. Purchaseth a Piece of Land.

The author at his new quarters builds him another house.

MY hap was to be quartered in a country called Handapon-down, lying to the westward of the city of Candy; which place liked me very well, being much nearer to the sea than where I dwelt before, which gave me some probable hopes, that in time I might chance to make an escape. But in the mean time to free myself from the suspicion of the people, who watched me by night and by day, had an eye to all my actions, I went to work with the help of some of my neighbours, to build me another house upon the bank of a river, and entrenched it round with a ditch, and planted an hedge, and so began to settle myself, and followed my business in knitting, and going about the countries a trading, seeming to be very well contented in this condition.

The people counsel him to marry.

Lying so long at the city without allowance, I had spent all to some seven shillings, which served me for a stock to set up again in these new quarters: and, by the blessing of my most gracious God, which never failed me in all my undertakings, I soon came to be well furnished with what that country afforded, insomuch that my neighbours and townsmen no more suspected my running away, but earnestly advised me to marry, saying, "It would be an ease and help to me;" knowing that I then

dressed my victuals myself, having turned my boy to seek his fortune when we were at the city. They urged also, "That it was not convenient for a young man as I was to live so solitarily alone in a house; and, if it should so come to pass, that the king should send me hereafter to my own country, their manner of marriage," they said, "was not like ours; and I might without any offence discharge my wife and go away."

I seemed not altogether to slight their counsel, that they might the less suspect I had any thoughts of mine own country; but told them—"That as yet I was not sufficiently stocked, and also, that I would look for one that I could love;" though in my heart I never purposed any such matter; but, on the contrary, did heartily abhor all thoughts tending that way. Which he seemed to listen to.

In this place I lived two years; and all that time could not get one likely occasion of running for it; for I thought it better to forbear running too great a hazard by being over-hasty to escape, than to deprive myself of all hopes for the future, when time and experience would be a great help to me. Here he lived two years.

In the year 1766, the Hollanders came up and built a fort just below me—there being but a ridge of mountains between them and me; but though so near, I could not come to them, a watch being kept at every passage. The king sent down against them two great commanders with their armies; but, being not strong enough to expel them, they lay in these watches to stop them from coming up higher.—The name of this fort was called Arrandery; which, although they could not prevent the Dutch from building at that time, yet, some years after, when they were not aware, they fell upon it and took it; and brought A fort built near him, but afterward taken by the king

all the people of it up to Candy, where those that remained alive of them were when I came from thence.

He and three more removed thence.

In this country of Hotteracourly, where the Dutch had built this fort, were four Englishmen placed, whereof I was one. All whom the king immediately upon the news of the Dutch's invasion, sent order to bring up out of the danger of the war into Candy Uda, fearing that which we were indeed intended to do—viz. to run away.

This invasion happening so unexpectedly, and our removal so sudden, I was forced to leave behind me that little estate which God had given me, lying scattered abroad in betel-nuts, the great commodity of that country which I was then parting from: and much ado I had to get my clothes brought along with me, the enemies, as they called them, but my friends, being so near. And thus was I carried out of the country as poor as I came into it, leaving all the fruits of my labour and industry behind me; which called to my remembrance the words of Job: —"Naked came I into this world, and naked shall I return: God gave, and God hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Settled in a dismal place.

We all four were brought up together into a town on the top of a mountain, called Laggendenny; where I, and my dear friend and fellow prisoner, and fellow batchelor, Mr. John Loveland, lived together in one house. For, by this time, not many of our people were as we, that is, single men; but, seeing so little hopes, despaired of their liberty, and had taken wives or bedfellows.

At our first coming into this town, we were very much dismayed, it being one of the most dismal places that I have seen upon that land. It stands alone upon the top of a mountain, and no other town near it, and not above four or five houses in it; and, oftentimes into this town did the king use to send such malefactors as he was minded suddenly to cut off. Upon these accounts, our being brought to this place could not but scare us; and the more, because it was the king's special order and command to place us in this very town.

But this our trouble and dejection (thanks be to God) lasted but a day. For the king seemed to apprehend into what a fit of fear and sorrow this our remove would cast us, and to be sensible how sadly we must needs take it, to change a sweet and pleasant country, such as Handapondown and the country adjacent was, for this most sad and dismal mountain. And, therefore, the next day came a comfortable message from the king's own mouth, sent by no less man than he who had the chief power and command over those people who were appointed to give us our victuals where we were. This message, which, as he said himself, he was ordered by the king to deliver to the people in our hearing, was this:—that they should not think that we were malefactors, that is, such who, having incurred the king's displeasure, were sent to be kept prisoners there—but men whom his majesty did highly esteem, and meant to promote to great honour in his service, and that they should respect us as such, and entertain us accordingly. And if their ability would not reach thereunto, it was the king's order, he said, to bid them sell their cattle and goods; and, when that was done, their wives and children, rather than we should want of our due allowance, which he ordered should be as formerly we used to have; and

A comfortable message from the king concerning us.

if we had not houses thatched, and sufficient for us to dwell in, he said we should change, and take theirs.

Placed there to punish the people for a crime.

This kind order from the king coming so suddenly, did not a little comfort and encourage us; for then we did perceive the king's purpose and intent in placing us in those remote parts was not to punish us, but them; that we might be his instruments to plague and take revenge of that people, who, it seems, had plundered the king's palace in the time of the late rebellion, when he left it and fled; for this town lies near unto the same; and their office lying about the court, they had the fairer opportunity of plundering it. For the service they are to perform to the king, is, to carry his pallanquin when he pleaseth to ride therein, and also to bring milk every morning to the court, being keepers of the king's cattle.

Weary of this place

In this town we remained some three years, by which time we were grown quite weary of the place, and the place and people also grown weary of us, who were but troublesome guests to them; for, having such great authority given us over them, we would not lose it; and, being four of us in call one of another, we would not permit or suffer them to domineer over us. Being thus tired with one another's company, and the king's order being of an old date, we used all means we could to clear ourselves of one another; often repairing unto the court to seek to obtain a license that we might be removed and placed any where else: but there was none that durst grant it, because it was the king's peculiar command, and special appointment, that we must abide in that very town.

During the time of our stay here, we had our victuals brought

us in good order and due season; the inhabitants having such a charge given them by their governor, and he from the king, durst not do otherwise: so that we had but little to do, only to dress and eat, and sit down to knit.

I had used the utmost of my skill and endeavour to get a license to go down to my former quarters, all things being now pretty well settled, hoping that I might recover some of my old debts; but by no means could I obtain it. The denial of so reasonable a desire put me upon taking leave. I was well acquainted with the way, but yet I hired a man to go with me, without which I could not get through the watches; for, although I was the master, and he the man, yet when we came into the watches, he was the keeper, and I the prisoner: and by this means we passed without being suspected.

By a piece of craft he gets down to his old quarters.

Being come into my old quarters, by pretending that this man was sent down from the magistrate to see that my debts and demands might be duly paid and discharged, I chanced to recover some of them, and the rest gave over for lost; for I never more looked after them. And so I began the world anew, and by the blessing of God was again pretty well recruited before I left this town.

Began the world anew the third time.

In the time of my residence here, I chanced to hear of a small piece of land that was to be sold, about which I made very diligent inquiry; for, although I was sore a weary of living in this town, yet I could not get out of it, not having other new quarters appointed me, unless I could provide a place for myself to remove to; which now God had put into my hand. As for the king's command, I dreaded it not much, having

Plots to remove himself.

found by observation, that the king's orders wear away by time, and the neglect of them comes at last to be unregarded. However, I was resolved to put it to a hazard, come what will.

Is encouraged to buy a piece of land.

Although I had been now some seven or eight years in this land, and by this time came to know pretty well the customs and constitutions of the nation, yet I would not trust my own knowledge, but to prevent the worst, I went to the governor of that same country where the land lay, to desire his advice, whether or no I might lawfully buy that small piece of land. He inquired whose, and what land it was? I informed him, that it had been formerly dedicated to a priest, and he, at his death, had left it to his grandson, who, for want, was forced to sell it. Understanding this, the governor approved of the business, and encouraged me to buy it, saying, that such kinds of lands only were lawful here to be bought and sold, and that this was not in the least litigious.

The situation and condition of it.

Having gotten both his consent and advice, I went on cheerfully with my purchase. The place also liked me wonderous well; it being a point of land standing into a corn field, so that corn fields were on three sides of it, and just before my door a little corn ground belonging thereto, and very well watered. In the ground, besides eight cocoa-nut trees, there were all sorts of fruit trees the country afforded; but, it had been so long desolate, that it was all overgrown with bushes, and no sign of a house therein.

Buys it.

The price of this land was five-and-twenty larees, that is, five dollars, a great sum of money in the account of this country: yet, thanks be to God, who had so far enabled me after my

late and great loss, that I was strong enough to lay this down. The terms of purchase being concluded on between us, a writing was made upon a leaf after that country manner, witnessed by seven or eight men of the best quality in the town; which was delivered to me, and I paid the money, and then took possession of the land:—it lies some ten miles to the southward of the city of Candy, in the county of Oudaneur, in the town of Elledat.

Now I went about building an house upon my land, and was assisted by three of my countrymen that dwelt near by, Roger Gold, Ralph Knight, and Stephen Rutland, and in a short time we finished it. The country people were all well pleased to see us thus busy ourselves about buying of land and building of houses, thinking it would tie our minds the faster to their country, and make us think the less upon our own. **Builds an house on it**

Though I had built my new house, yet I durst not leave my old quarters in Laggendenny, but wait until a more convenient time fell out for that purpose; I went away, therefore, to my old home, and left my aforesaid three English neighbours to inhabit it in my absence. Not long after I found a fit season to be gone to my estate at Elledat; and, upon my going, the rest left the town also, and went and dwelt elsewhere, each one where he best liked: but, by this means we all lost a privilege which we had before; which was, that our victuals was brought unto us, and now we were forced to go and fetch them ourselves, the people alleging (true enough) that they were not bound to carry our provisions about the country after us. **Leaves Laggendenny.**

Being settled in my new house, I began to plant my ground

Settled at his new purchase, with three more living with him.

full of all sorts of fruit trees; and, by the blessing of God, all grew and prospered, and yielded me great plenty, and good increase, sufficient both for me and for those that dwelt with me. For the three Englishmen I left at my house, when I departed back to Laggendenny, still lived with me; we were all single men, and we agreed very well together, and were helpful to one another; and, for their help and assistance of me, I freely granted them liberty to use and enjoy whatsoever the ground afforded, as much as myself. And, with a joint consent it was concluded amongst us, that only single men and batchelors should dwell there, and such as would not be conformable to this present agreement, should depart and absent himself from our society, and also forfeit his right and claim to the forementioned privilege, that is, to be cut off from all benefit of whatsoever the trees and ground afforded.

I thought fit to make such a covenant, to exclude women from coming in amongst us, to prevent all strife and dissention, and to make all possible provision for the keeping up love and quietness among ourselves.

In this manner we four lived together some two years very lovingly and contentedly, not an ill word passing between us. We used to take turns in keeping at home, while the rest went forth about their business; for our house stood alone, and no neighbour near it, therefore we always left one within; the rest of the Englishmen lived round about us, some four or five miles distant, some more; so that we were, as it were, within reach of one another, which made us like our present situation the more.

Thus we lived upon the mountains, being round about us beset with watches, most of our people being now married: so that now all talk and suspicion of our running away was now laid aside; neither, indeed, was it scarce possible: the effect of which was, that now we could walk from one to the other, or where we would upon the mountains, no man molesting or disturbing us in the least: so that we began to go about a pedling, and trading in the country farther towards the northward, carrying our caps about to sell. Their freedom and trade.

By this time, two of our company, seeing but little hopes of liberty, thought it too hard a task thus to lead a single life, and married: which, when they had done, according to the former agreement, departed from us; so that our company was now reduced to two, viz. myself and Stephen Rutland, whose inclination and resolution was as stedfast as mine against marriage; and we parted not to the last, but came away together. His family reduced to two.

CHAP. VII.

A Return to the Rest of the English, with some further Accounts of them, and some further Discourse of the Author's Course of Life.

Confer together about the lawfulness of marrying with the native women.

LET us now make a visit to the rest of our countrymen, and see how they do. They, reckoning themselves in for their lives, in order to their future settlement, were generally disposed to marry: concerning which, we have had many and sundry disputes among ourselves; as particularly concerning the lawfulness of matching with heathens and idolators, and whether the Chingulays marriages were any better than living in whoredom; there being no Christian priests to join them together, and it being allowed by their laws to change their wives, and take others as often as they pleased. But these cases we solved for our own advantage, after this manner—That we were but flesh and blood, and that it is said, it is better to marry than to burn, and that as far as we could see, we were cut off from all marriages any where else, even for our life time; and therefore, that we must marry with these, or with none at all. And, when the people in scripture were forbidden to take wives of strangers, it was then when they might intermarry with their own people, and so no necessity lay upon them; and that when they could not, there are examples in the Old Testament upon record, that they took wives of the daughters of the lands wherein they dwelt. These reasons being urged, there was none among us, that could object ought against them, especially if those that

were minded to marry women here, did take them for their wives during their lives, as some of them say, they do; and most of the women they marry are such as do profess themselves to be Christians.

As for mine own part, however lawful these marriages might be, yet I judged it far more convenient for me to abstain, and that it more redounded to my good; having always a reviving hope in me, that my God had not forsaken me, but according to his gracious promise to the Jews in the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy, and the beginning, "would turn my captivity, and bring me into the land of my fathers." These, and such like meditations, together with my prayers to God, kept me from that unequal yoke of unbelievers, which several of my countrymen and fellow prisoners put themselves under. He resolves upon a single life.

By this time our people having plied their business hard, had almost knit themselves out of work; and now caps were become a very dead commodity, which was the chief stay they had heretofore to trust to; so that now most of them betook themselves to other employments; some to husbandry, plowing ground, and sowing rice, and keeping cattle; others stilled rack to sell—others went about the country a trading: for that which one part of the land affords, is a good commodity to carry to another that wants it. And thus with the help of a little allowance, they make a shift to subsist. Most of their wives spin cotton yarn, which is a great help to them for clothing, and at spare times also knit. What employments they follow.

After this manner, by the blessing of God, our nation hath lived, and still doth, in as good fashion as any other people or The respect and credit they live in.

nation whatsoever, that are strangers here, or as any of the natives themselves, only the grandees and courtiers excepted. This I speak to the praise and glory of our God, who loves the stranger in giving him food and raiment, and that hath been pleased to give us favour and a good repute in the sight of our enemies. We cannot complain for want of justice, in any wrongs we have sustained by the people, or that our cause hath been discountenanced; but rather we have been favoured above the natives themselves.

A Chingulay punished for beating an Englishman.

One of our men happened to be beaten by his neighbour, at which we were all very much concerned, taking it as a reproach to our nation, and fearing it might embolden others to do the like by the rest of us: therefore with joint consent we all concluded to go to the court to complain, and to desire satisfaction from the adigar, which we did. Upon this the man who had beat the Englishman was summoned in to appear before him; who seeing so many of us there, and fearing the cause will go very hard with him, to make the judge his friend, gave him a bribe: he having received it, would have shifted off the punishment of the malefactor; but we, day after day, followed him from house to court, and from place to place, wherever he went, demanding justice and satisfaction for the wrong we received, shewing the black and blue blows upon the Englishman's shoulders to all the rest of the noblemen at court. He, fearing therefore, lest the king might be acquainted herewith, was forced, though much against his will, to clap the Chingulay in chains; in which condition after he got him, he released him not till besides the former fee he had given him another.

Lately was Richard Varnham taken into the king's service,

and held as honourable an employment as ever any Christian had in my time, being commander of nine hundred and seventy soldiers, and set over all the great guns; and, besides this, several towns were under him, a place of no less profit than honour. The king gave him an excellent silver sword and halberd, the like to which the king never gave to any white man in my time: but he had the good luck to die a natural death: for had not that prevented, in all probability he should have followed the two Englishmen that served him, spoken of before.

An Englishman preferred at court.

Some years since, some of our nation took up arms under the king; which happened upon this occasion:—The Hollanders had a small fort in the king's country, called Bibligom Fort. This the king minded to take and demolish, sent his army to besiege it; but being pretty strong, for there were about ninety Dutchmen in it, besides a good number of black soldiers, and four guns on each point one; being in this condition, it held out. Some of the great men informed the king of several Dutch runaways in his land, that might be trusted, not daring to turn again for fear of the gallows, who might help to reduce the fort; and that also there were white men of other nations that had wives and children, from whom they would not run—and these might do him good service. Unto this advice the king inclined.

The English serve the king in his wars.

Whereupon the king made a declaration to invite the foreign nations into his service against Bibligom Fort; that he would compel none, but such as were willing of their own free accord, the king would take it kindly, and they should be well rewarded. Now there entered into the king's service upon this expedition some of all nations, both Portuguese, Dutch, and English, about the number of thirty. To all that took arms he gave to the

value of twenty shillings in money, and three pieces of calico for clothes, and commanded them to wear breeches, hats, and doublets—a great honour there. The king intended a Dutchman, who had been an old servant to him, to be captain over them all; but the Portuguese, not caring to be under the command of a Dutchman, desired a captain of their own nation, which the king granted—studying to please them at this time: but the English being but six, were too few to have a captain over them, and so were forced, some to serve under the Dutch, and some under the Portuguese captain. There were no more of the English, because, being left at their liberty, they thought it safest to dwell at home, and cared not much to take arms under a heathen against Christians.

Who now live miserably.

They were all ready to go, their arms and ammunition ready, with guns prepared to send down; but, before they went, tidings came that the fort yielded at the king's mercy. After this, the Whites thought they had got an advantage of the king, in having these gifts for nothing, but the king did not intend to part with them so; but kept them to watch at his gate; and now they are reduced to great poverty and necessity—for since the king's first gift, they have never received any pay or allowance, though they have often made their addresses to him to supply their wants, signifying their forwardness to serve him faithfully. He speaks them fair, and tells them he will consider them, but does not in the least regard them. Many of them since, after three or four years service, have been glad to get other poor run away Dutchmen to serve in their steads, giving them as much money and clothes as they received of the king before, that so they might get free to come home to their wives and children.

The Dutch captain would afterwards have forced the rest of

the English to have come under him, and called them traitors because they would not, and threatened them. But they scorned him, and bid him do his worst, but would never be persuaded to be soldiers under him; saying, that it was not so much his zeal to the king's service, as his own pride to make himself greater, by having more men under him.

He returns to speak of himself. Plots and consults about an escape.

I will now turn to the progress of my own story. It was now about the year 1672, I related before, that my family was reduced to two, myself and one honest man more; we lived solitarily and contentedly, being well settled in a good house of my own. Now we fell to breeding up goats; we began with two, but, by the blessing of God, they soon came to a good many, and their flesh served us instead of mutton. We kept hens and hogs also; and seeing no sudden likelihood of liberty, we went about to make all things handsome and convenient about us, which might be serviceable to us while we lived there, and might farther our liberty whensoever we should see an occasion to attempt it, which it did, in taking away all suspicion from the people concerning us; who not having wives as the other's had, they might well think, lay the readier to take any advantage to make an escape; which indeed we two did plot and consult about, between ourselves, with all imaginable privacy, longbefore we got away; and therefore, we laboured by all means to hide our designs, and to free them from so much as suspicion.

A description of his house.

We had now brought our house and ground to such a perfection, that few noblemen's seats in the land did excel us. On each side was a great thorn gate for entrance, which is the manner in that country: the gates of the city are of the same. We built also another house in the yard all open for air, for

ourselves to sit in, or any neighbours that came, to talk with us; for seldom should we be alone, our neighbours oftener frequenting our house than we desired, out of whom to be sure we could pick no profit; for their coming is always either to beg or borrow; for although we were strangers and prisoners in their land, yet they would confess that Almighty God had dealt far more bountifully with us than with them, in that we had a far greater plenty of all things than they.

He takes up a new trade and thrives on it.

I now began to set up a new trade; for the trade of knitting was grown dead, and husbandry I could not follow, not having a wife to help and assist me therein, a great part of husbandry properly belonging to the women to manage. Whereupon I perceived a trade in use among them, which was, to lend out corn; the benefit of which is fifty per cent. per annum. This I saw to be the easiest and most profitable way of living, whereupon I took in hand to follow it, and what stock I had I converted into corn or rice in the husk. And now as customers came for corn, I let them have it, to receive, their next harvest, when their own corn was ripe, the same quantity I lent them, and half as much more. But as the profit is great, so is the trouble of getting it in also; for he that useth this trade, must watch when the debtor's field is ripe, and claim his due in time, otherwise other creditors coming before, will seize all upon the account of their debts, and leave no corn at all for those that came later. For these that come thus a borrowing, generally carry none of their corn home when it is ripe; for their creditors ease them of that labour, by coming into their fields and taking it, and commonly they have not half enough to pay what they owe: so that they that miss getting their debts this year, must stay till the next, when it will be double, two measures

for one; but the interest never runs up higher, though the debt lie seven years unpaid. By means hereof I was put to a great deal of trouble, and was forced to watch early and late to get my debts, and many times miss of them after all my pains. Howbeit, when my stock did increase that I had dealings with many, I mattered not if I lost in some places; the profit of the rest was sufficient to bear that out.

And thus, by the blessing of God, my little was increased to a great deal; for he had blessed me so, that I was able to lend to my enemies, and had no need to borrow of them; so that I might use the words of Jacob, not out of pride of myself, but thankfulness to God, "That he brought me hither with my staff and blessed me so here, that I became two bands.

His allowance paid him out of the king's store-houses.

For some years together after I removed to my own house from Laggen Denny, the people from whence I came continued my allowance that I had when I lived among them. But now in plain terms they told me, "They could give it me no more, and that I was better able to live without it, than they to give it me," which, though I knew to be true, yet I thought not fit to lose that portion of allowance, which the king was pleased to allot me; therefore I went to court, and appealed to the adigar, to whom such matters did belong: who, upon consideration of the people's poor condition, appointed me monthly to come to him at the king's palace, for a ticket to receive my allowance out of the king's store-houses.

Hereby I was brought into great danger, out of which I had much ado to escape, and that with the loss of my allowance for ever after. I shall relate the manner of it in the next chapter.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Author had like to have been received into the King's Service, and what Means he used to avoid it. He meditates and attempts an Escape, but is often prevented.

He voluntarily forgoes his pension.

THIS frequent appearance at the court, and waiting there for my tickets, brought me to be taken notice of by the great men; insomuch, that they wondered I had been all this while forgotten, and never been brought before the king, being so fit, as they would suppose me, for his use and service, saying, "That from henceforward I should fare better than the allowance amounted to, as soon as the king was made acquainted with me;—which words of theirs served instead of a ticket: whereupon, fearing I should suddenly be brought unto the king—which thing I most of all feared, and least desired; and, hoping that out of sight might prove out of mind, I resolved to forsake the court, and never more ask for tickets, especially seeing God had dealt so bountifully with me as to give me ability to live well enough without them:—as when Israel had eaten of the corn of Canaan, the manna ceased; so when I was driven to forego my allowance that had all this while sustained me in this wilderness, God otherways provided for me.

Summoned before the king.

From this time forward to the time of my flight out of the land, which was five years, I neither had nor demanded any allowance—and glad I was that I could escape so; but I must

have more trouble first. For some four or five days after my last coming from court, there came a soldier to me, sent from the adigar with an order in writing under his hand, "that upon sight thereof I should immediately dispatch and come to the court to make my personal appearance before the king; and, in case of any delay, the officers of the country were thereby authorized and commanded to assist the bearer, and to see the same order speedily performed."

The chief occasion of this had been a person, not long before my near neighbour and acquaintance, Oua Matteral by name, who knew my manner of life, and had often been at my house, but now was taken in and employed at court; and he out of friendship and good will to me was one of the chief actors in this business, that he might bring me to preferment at court.

Upon the abovesaid summons there was no remedy, but to court I must go; where I first applied myself to my said old neighbour, Oua Motteral, who was the occasion of sending for me. I signified to him—that I was come in obedience to the warrant, and I desired to know the reason why I was sent for? to which he answered—"Here is good news for you; you are to appear in the king's presence, where you will find great favour and honourable entertainment, far more than any of your countrymen yet here found." Which the great man thought would be a strong inducement to persuade me joyfully to accept of the king's employments: but, this was the thing I always most dreaded and endeavoured to shun, knowing that being taken into court would be a means to cut off all hopes of liberty from me—which was the thing I esteemed equal unto life itself.

He is informed that he is to be preferred at court.

But resolves to refuse it.

Seeing myself brought unto this pass, wherein I had no earthly helper, I recommended my cause to God, desiring him, in whose hands are the hearts of kings and princes, to divert the business; and my cause being just and right I was resolved to persist in a denial. My case seemed to me to be like that of the four lepers at the gate of Samaria,—no avoiding of death for me. If out of ambition and honour I should have embraced the king's service, besides the depriving myself of all hopes of liberty, in the end I must be put to death, as happens to all that serve him; and to deny his service could be but death, and it seemed to me to be the better death of the two. For if I should be put to death only because I refused his service, I should be pitied as one that died innocently; but if I should be executed in his service, however innocent I was, I should be certainly reckoned a rebel and a traitor, as they all are whom he commands to be cut off.

The answer he makes to the great man.

Upon these considerations having thus set my resolutions, as God enabled me, I returned him this answer: first—"That the English nation, to whom I belonged, had never done any violence or wrong to their king, either in word or deed. Secondly, that the causes of my coming on their land was not like to that of other nations, who were either enemies taken in war, or such as by reason of poverty or distress, were driven to sue for relief out of the king's bountiful liberality, or such as fled for the fear of deserved punishment; whereas, as they all well knew, I came not upon any of these causes, but upon account of trade, and came ashore to receive the king's orders, which we understood were come concerning us; and to render an account to the dissauva of the reasons and occasions of our coming into the king's port: and that by the grief and sorrow I had under-

gone by being so long detained from my native country, (but, for which I thanked the king's majesty, without want of any thing) I scarcely enjoyed myself; for my heart was always absent from my body." Hereunto adding my insufficiency and inability for such honourable employment, being subject to many infirmities and diseases of body.

To this he replied,—" Cannot you read and write English? servile labour the king requireth not of you." I answered,— " When I came ashore I was but young, and that which then I knew, now I had forgot for want of practice, having had neither ink nor paper ever since I came ashore. I urged, moreover, that it was contrary to the custom and practice of all kings and princes upon the earth to keep and detain men that came into their countries upon such peaceable accounts as we did; much less to compel them to serve them beyond their power and ability."

He is sent to another great officer.

At my first coming before him he looked very pleasingly, and spake with a smiling countenance to me: but now his smiles were turned into frowns, and his pleasing looks into bended brows; and, in rough language, he bad me be gone and tell my tale to the adigar—which immediately I did; but he being busy did not much regard me, and I was glad of it, that I might absent the court. But I durst not go out of the city. Sore afraid I was that evil would befal me, and the best I could expect was to be put in chains. All my refuge was prayer to God, whose hand was not shortened that it could not save; and would make all things work together for good to them that trust in him. From him only did I expect help and deliverance in this time of need.

He stays in the city expecting his doom.

In this manner I lodged in an Englishman's house that dwelt in the city about ten days, maintaining myself at my own charge; waiting with a sorrowful heart, and daily expecting to hear my doom. In the meantime, my countrymen and acquaintance, some of them blamed me for refusing so fair a proffer; whereby I might not only have lived well myself, but also have been helpful unto my poor countrymen and friends: others of them pitying me, expecting as I did nothing but a wrathful sentence from so cruel a tyrant, if God did not prevent; and Richard Varnham, who was at this time a great man about the king, was not a little scared to see me run the hazard of what might ensue, rather than be partaker with him in the felicities of the court.

He goes home, but is sent for again.

It being chargeable thus to lie at the city, and hearing nothing more of my business, I took leave without asking, and went home to my house, which was but a day's distance, to get some victuals to carry with me and to return again. But soon after I came home I was sent for again; so I took my load of victuals with me, and arrrived at the city, but went not to the court, but to my former lodging, where I staid as formerly, until I had spent all my provisions: and, by the good hand of my God upon me, I never heard any more of that matter, neither came I any more into the presence of the great men at court, but dwelt in my own plantation upon what God provided for me by my labour and industry.

Having escaped the court service, falls to his former course of life.

For now I returned to my former course of life, dressing my victuals daily with mine own hands, fetching both wood and water upon mine own back—and this, for ought I could see to the contrary, I was like to continue for my life time. This I

could do for the present; but I began to consider how helpless I should be, if it should please God I should live till I grew old and feeble. So I entered upon a consultation with myself for the providing against this. One way was the getting of me a wife, but that I was resolved never to do. Then I began to inquire for some poor body to live with me, to dress my victuals for me, that I might live at a little more ease, but could not find any to my mind. Whereupon I considered, that there was no better way than to take one of my poor countrymen's children, whom I might bring up to learn both my own language and religion. And this might be not only charity to the child, but a kindness to myself also afterwards: and several there were that would be glad to be eased of their charge, having more than they could well maintain. A child therefore I took, by whose aptness, ingenuity, and company, as I was much delighted at present, so afterwards I hoped to be served.

It was about the year 1673; although I had now lived many years in this land, and, God be praised, I wanted for nothing the land afforded, yet I could not forget my native country, England; and lamented, under the famine of God's word and sacraments, the want whereof I found greater than all earthly wants: and my daily and fervent prayers to God were, in his good time, to restore me to the enjoyment of them.

I and my companion were still meditating upon our escape and the means to compass it, which our pedling about the country did greatly forward and promote; for, speaking well the language, and going with our commodities from place to place, we used often to entertain discourse with the country people, viz. concerning the ways and countries, and where

Their pedling forwarded their escape.

there were most and fewest inhabitants, and where and how the watches laid from one country to another; and what commodities were proper to carry from one part to the other, pretending we would from time to time go from one place to another, to furnish ourselves with ware that the respective places afforded. None doubted but we had made these inquiries for the sake of our trade, but ourselves had other designs in them. Neither was there the least suspicion of us for these our questions; all supposing I would never run away and leave such an estate as in their accounts and esteem I had.

Their most probable course to take was northwards.

By diligent enquiry I had come to understand, that the easiest and most probable way to make an escape was by travelling to the northward, that part of the land being least inhabited. Therefore we furnished ourselves with such wares as were vendible in those parts; as tobacco, pepper, garlic, combs, all sorts of iron ware, &c.; and, being laden with these things, we two set forth, bending our course towards the northern parts of the Island, knowing very little of the way; and the ways of this country generally are intricate and difficult; here being no great highways that run through the land, but a multitude of little paths; some from one town to another, some into the fields, and some into the woods, where they sow their corn; and the whole country covered with woods, that a man cannot see any thing but just before him. And that which makes them most difficult of all is, that the ways shift and alter, new ways often made and old ways stopped up:—for they cut down woods and sow the ground; and, having got one crop off from it they leave it, and wood soon grows over it again: and in case a road went through those woods they stop it, and contrive another way; neither do they regard

though it goes two or three miles about: and to ask and inquire the way for us white men is dangerous, it occasioning the people to suspect us. And, the Chingulays themselves never travel in countries where they are not experienced in the ways without a guide, it being so difficult; and there was no getting a guide to conduct us down to the sea.

They get three days journey northward.

But we made a shift to travel from Candy Uda downwards towards the north from town to town; happening at a place at last which I knew before, having been brought up formerly from Cooswat that way, to descend the hill called Bocaul, where there is no watch, but in time of great disturbance. Thus, by the providence of God, we passed all difficulties until we came into the county of Neurecalava, which are the lowest parts that belong to this king; and some three days journey from the place whence we came.

But return back again.

We were not a little glad that we were gotten so far onwards in our way, but yet at this time we could go no farther; for our ware was all sold, and we could pretend no more excuses; and also we had been out so long that it might cause our townsmen to come and look after us, it being the first time that we had been so long absent from home.

They often attempted to fly this way, but still hindered.

In this manner we went into these northern parts eight or ten times, and once got as far as Hourly, a town in the extremities of the king's dominions, but yet we could not attain our purpose. For this northern country being much subject to dry weather, and having no springs, we were fain to drink of ponds of rain water, wherein the cattle lie and tumble, which would

be so thick and muddy, that the very filth would hang in our beards when we drank. This did not agree with our bodies, being used to drink pure spring water only; by which means, when we first used those parts, we used often to be sick of violent fevers and agues, when we came home. Which diseases happened not only to us, but to all other people that dwelt upon the mountains, as we did, whensoever they went down into those places; and commonly the major part of those that fall sick, dies; at which the Chingulays are so scared, that it is very seldom they do adventure their bodies down thither: neither truly would I have done it, were it not for those future hopes, which God of his mercy did at length accomplish. For both of us smarted sufficiently by those severe fevers we got, when we should both lay sick together, and one not able to help the other;—insomuch, that our countrymen and neighbours used to ask us, if we went thither purposing to destroy ourselves, they little thinking, and we not daring to tell them, our intent and design.

In those parts is bad water, but they had an antidote against it.

At length we learned an antidote and counter poison against the filthy venomous water, which so operated by the blessing of God, that after the use thereof we had no more sickness. It is only a dry leaf; they call it in Portuguese Banga, beaten to powder with some of the country jaggory; and this we eat morning and evening upon an empty stomach. It intoxicates the brain, and makes one giddy, without any other operation, either by stool or vomit.

They still improve in the knowledge of their way.

Thus every voyage we gathered more experience, and got lower down, for this is a large and spacious country. We travelled to and fro where the ways led us, according to their

own proverb, "The beggar and the merchant is never out of his way;" because the one begs, and the other trades wherever they go. Thus we used to ramble until we had sold all our ware, and then went home for more;—and by these means we grew acquainted both with the people and the paths.

In these parts I met with my black boy, whom I had divers years before turned away, who had now wife and children. He proved a great help to me in directing me in the ways, for he had lived many years in these parts. Perceiving him to be able, and also in a very poor and sad condition, not able to maintain his family, I adventured once to ask him if a good reward would not be welcome to him, for guiding us two down to the Dutch; which, having done he might return again, and nobody the wiser: at which proposition he seemed to be very joyful, and promised to undertake the same, only at this time for reasons he alleged, which to me seemed probable, as that it was harvest time, and many people about, it could not so safely and conveniently be done now, as it might be some two months after.

Meets with his black boy in these parts, who was to guide him to the Dutch.

The business was concluded upon, and the time appointed between us; but so it fell out, that at the very precise time, all things being ready to depart on the morrow, it pleased God, whose time was not yet come, to strike me with a most grievous pain in the hollow on my right side, that for five days together I was not able to stir from the fire side, but by warming it and fomenting and chafing it I got a little ease.

Afterwards, as soon as I was recovered and got strength, we went down and carried one Englishman more with us for com-

But disappointed.

pany, for our better security, seeing we must travel in the night upon our flight. But though we took him with us, we dared not to tell him of our design, because he had a wife, intending not to acquaint him with it till the business was just ready to be put into action. But when we came, expecting to meet with our guide, he was gone into another country, and we knew not where to find him, and we knew not how to run away without him. Thus we were disappointed that time.

But as formerly, we went to and fro until we had sold our ware; and so returned home again, and delivered the man to his wife, but never told him any thing of our intended design, fearing lest, if he knew it, he might acquaint her with it, and so all our purposes coming to be revealed, might be overthrown for ever afterwards. For we were resolved by God's help still to persevere in our design.

An extraordinary drought for three or four years together.

Some eight or nine years one after another we followed this trade, going down into this country on purpose to seek to get beyond the inhabitants, and so to run away through the woods to the Hollanders. Three or four years together the dry weather prevented us, when the country was almost starved for want of rain—all which time they never tilled the ground. The wells also were almost all dry; so that in the towns we could scarcely get water to drink, or victuals to eat, which affrighted us at those times from running into the woods, lest we might perish for thirst. All this while upon the mountains, where our dwelling was, there was no want of rain.

We found it an inconvenience when we came three of us down together, reckoning it might give occasion to the peo-

ple to suspect our design, and so prevent us from going thither again. Some of the English that followed such a trade as we had been down that way with their commodities; but, having felt the smart of that country's sickness, would go there no more, finding as much profit in nearer and easier journeys. But we still persisted in our courses this way, having some greater matter to do here than to sell wares, viz. to find out this northern discovery, which in God's good time we did effect.

CHAP. IX.

How the Author began his Escape, and got onward of his Way about an hundred Miles.

Their last and successful attempt.

HAVING often gone this way to seek for liberty, but could not yet find it, we again set forth to try what success God Almighty would now give us; in the year 1679, on the two-and-twentieth of September, furnished with such arms as we could well carry with safety and secrecy, which were knives and small axes; we carried also several sorts of ware to sell as formerly: the moon being seven-and-twenty days old, which we had so contrived, that we might have a light moon, to see the better to run away by—having left an old man at home, whom I had hired to live with me, to look after my house and goats.

The way they went.

We went down at the hill Bocawl, where there was now no watch, and but seldom any; from thence down to the town of Bonder Cooswat, where my father died, and by the town of Nicavar, which is the last town belonging to Hotcurly in that road. From thence forward the towns stand thin—for it was sixteen miles to the next town called Parroah, which lay in the country of Neure-Cawlava, and all the way through a wilderness called Parroah Mocolane, full of wild elephants, tigers, and bears.

They design for Anarodgburro.

Now we set our design for Anarodgburro, which is the lowest place inhabited belonging to the King of Candy; where there is

a watch always kept, and nearer than twelve or fourteen miles of this town as yet we never had been.

When we came into the midst of this country, we heard that the governor thereof had sent officers from the court to dispatch away the king's revenues and duties to the city, and that they were now come into the country; which put us into no small fear, lest if they saw us they should send us back again: wherefore we edged away into the westernmost parts of Ecpoulpot, being a remote part of that country wherein we now are; and there we sat to knitting until we heard they were gone; but this caused us to overshoot our time, the moon spending so fast. But as soon as we heard they were departed out of the country, we went onwards of our journey, having kept most of our ware for a pretence to have an occasion to go further; and having bought a good parcel of cotton yarn to knit caps withal, the rest of our ware we gave out, was to buy dried flesh with, which only in those lower parts is to be sold.

They turn out of the way to avoid the king's officers.

Our way now lay necessarily through the chief governor's yard at Colliwilla, who dwells there purposely to see and examine all that go and come. This greatly distressed us. First, because he was a stranger to us, and one whom we had never seen. And secondly, because there was no other way to escape him: and plain reason would tell him, that we, being prisoners, were without our bounds. Whereupon we concluded, that our best way would be to go boldly and resolutely to his house, and not to seem daunted in the least; or to look as if we did distrust him to disallow of our journey, but to shew such a behaviour as if we had authority to travel where we would.

Forced to pass through the chief governor's yard.

So we went forward, and were forced to inquire and ask

The method they used to prevent his suspicion of them.

the way to his house, having never been so far this way before. I brought from home with me knives with fine carved handles, and a red Tunis cap purposely to sell or give him, if occasion required, knowing before, that we must pass by him; and all along, as we went, that we might be the less suspected, we sold caps and other ware, to be paid for at our return homewards. There were many cross paths to and fro to his house, yet, by God's providence we happened in the right road: and, having reached his house, according to the country manner, we went and sat down in the open house, which kind of houses are built on purpose for the reception of strangers: whither, not long after, the great man himself came and sat down by us; to whom we presented a small parcel of tobacco, and some betel: and, before he asked us the cause of our coming, we shewed him the ware we brought for him, and the cotton yarn which we had trucked about the country; telling him withal how the case stood with us: viz. that we had a charge greater than the king's allowance would maintain; and, that because dried flesh was the chief commodity of that part, we told him, that missing of the lading which we used to carry back, we were glad to come thither to see if we could make it up with dried flesh; and, therefore, if he would please to supply us either for such ware as we had brought, or else for our money, it would be a great favour, the which would oblige us for the future to bring him any necessaries that he should name unto us, when we should come again unto those parts, as we used to do very often; and, that we could furnish him, having dealings, and being acquainted with the best artificers in Candy.

At which he replied, that he was sorry we were come at such a dry time, wherein they could not catch deer; but if some rain

fell he would soon dispatch us with our ladings of flesh. But, however, he bade us go about the towns, and see whether there might be any or no, though he thought there was none. This answer of his pleased us wondrous well, both because by this we saw he suspected us not, and because he told us there was no dried flesh to be got: for it was one of our greatest fears that we should get our lading too soon, for then we could not have had an excuse to go further. And, as yet, we could not possibly fly; having still six miles further to the northward to go before we could attempt it; that is, to Anarodgburro.

From Anarodgburro it is two days journey further, through a desolate wilderness, before there is any more inhabitants; and, these inhabitants are neither under this king nor the Dutch; but are Malabars, and under a prince of their own. These people we were sorely afraid of, lest they might seize us and send us back; there being a correspondence between this prince and the King of Candy: wherefore it was our endeavour by all means to shun them, lest, according to the old proverb,—We might leap out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Their danger by reason of the ways they were to pass.

But we must take care of that as well as we could when we came among them, for as yet our care was to get to Anarodgburro; where, although it was our desire to get, yet we would not seem to be too hasty, lest it might occasion suspicion; but lay where we were two or three days: and one staid at the governor's house a knitting, whilst the others went about among the towns to see for flesh. The ponds in the country being now dry, there was fish everywhere in abundance, which they dry like red herrings over a fire.

They still remain at the governor's, to prevent suspicion.

They offered to sell us store of them; but they, we told them, would not turn to so good profit as flesh. The which we said, we would have, though we staid ten days longer for it. For here we could live as cheap, and earn as much as if we were at home, by our knitting: so we seemed to them as if we were not in any haste.

An accident that now created them great fear.

In the mean time happened an accident which put us to a great fright: for the king having newly clapped up several persons of quality, whereof my old neighbour Ova Motteral that sent for me to court was one, sent down soldiers to this high sheriff or governor, at whose house we now were, to give him orders to set a secure guard at the watches that no suspicious person might pass. This he did to prevent the relations of these imprisoned persons from making an escape, who through fear of the king might attempt it. This is always the king's custom to do, but it put us into an exceeding fear, lest it might beget an admiration in these soldiers to see white men so low down; which indeed is not customary nor allowed of, and so they might send us up again: which, doubtless they would have done, had it not been of God, by this means, and after this manner, to deliver us. Especially considering that the king's command came just at that time, and so expressly to keep a secure guard at the watches; and that, in that very way that we always proposed to go in: so that it seemed scarcely possible for us to pass afterwards, though we should get off fairly at present with the soldiers.

But get fairly rid of it.

Which we did: for they having delivered their message departed, shewing themselves very kind and civil unto us.

And we seemed to lament for our hard fortune, that we were not ready to go upwards with them in their good company; for we were neighbours, dwelling in one and the same county. However, we bid them carry our commendations to our countrymen, the English; with whom they were acquainted, and so bid them farewell. And glad we were when they were gone from us. And the next day in the morning we resolved, God willing, to set forward: but we thought not fit to tell our host the governor of it, till the very instant of our departure; that he might not have any time to deliberate concerning us.

That night, he being disposed to be merry, sent for people whose trade it is to dance and shew tricks, to come to his house to entertain him with their sports. The beholding them spent most part of the night; which, we merrily called our old host's civility to us at our last parting: as it proved indeed, though he, honest man, then, little dreamed of any such thing.

The morning being come we first took care to fill our bellies; then we packed up those things which were necessary for our journey, to carry with us; and the rest of our goods, cotton yarn, and cloth, and other things, that we would not encumber ourselves withal, we bound up in a bundle; intending to leave them behind us. This being done, I went to the governor, and carried him four or five charges of gunpowder, a thing somewhat scarce with them; intreating him, rather than we should be disappointed of flesh, to make use of that, and shoot some deer: which he was very willing to accept of; and to us it could be no ways profitable, not

They get away fairly from the governor.

having a gun. While we, we told him, would make a step to Anarodgburro to see what flesh we could procure there. In the mean time, according as we had laid the business, came Stephen with a bundle of goods, desiring to leave them in his house till we came back; which he was ready to grant us leave to do. And seeing us leave such a parcel of goods, though, God knows, but of little account in themselves, yet of considerable value in that land, he could not suppose otherwise but that we were intended to return again. Thus we took our leaves, and immediately departed, not giving him time to consider with himself, or consult with others about us: and he, like a good-natured man, bid us heartily farewell.

Although we knew not the way to this town, having never been there in all our lives, and durst not ask, lest it might breed suspicion; we went on confidently through a desolate wood; and happened to go very right, and came out directly at the place.

In their way they meet with a river which they found for their purpose.

But in our way before we arrived hither, we came up with a small river which run through the woods, called by the Chingulays, Malwat Oyah; the which we viewed well, and judged it might be a probable guide to carry us down to the sea, if a better did not present. Howbeit we thought good to try first the way we were taking; and to go onward towards Anarodgburro, that being the shortest and easiest way to get to the coast; and this river being just under our lee, ready to serve and assist us if other means failed.

They come to Anarodg-

To Anarodgburro therefore we came, called also Neur Waug,

which is not so much a particular single town, as a territory. It is a vast great plain, the like I never saw in all that Island; in the midst whereof is a lake which may be a mile over; not natural, but made by art, as other ponds in the country, to serve them to water their corn grounds. This plain is encompassed round with woods, and small towns among them on every side inhabited by Malabars; a distinct people from the Chingulays. But these towns we could not see till we came in among them. Being come out through the woods into this plain we stood looking and staring round about us, but knew not which way to go: at length we heard a cock crow, which was a sure sign to us that there was a town hard by; into which we were resolved to enter: for, standing thus amazed, was the ready way to be taken up for suspicious persons; especially, because white men never come down so low.

burro. This place described.

Being entered into this town, we sat ourselves under a tree and proclaimed our wares; for we feared to rush into their yards as we used to do at other places, lest we should scare them. The people stood amazed as soon as they saw us, being originally Malabars, though subjects of Candy; nor could they understand the Chingulay language in which we spake to them. And we stood looking one upon another until there came one that could speak the Chingulay tongue, who asked us "From whence we came?" We told him "From Candy Uda." But they believed us not; supposing that we came up from the Dutch:—from Manaar. So they brought us before their governor; he not speaking Chingulay, spake to us by an interpreter: and, to know the truth, whether we came from the place we pretended, he inquired about news at court, demanded—"Who were governors of such and such

The people stand amazed at them.

They are examined by the governor of the place.

countries? and what was become of some certain noblemen whom the king had lately cut off? and also, what the common people were employed about at court?" for it is seldom that they are idle. To all which we gave satisfactory answers. Then he inquired of us—"Who gave us leave to come down so low?" We told him—"That privilege was given us by the king himself full fifteen years since, at his palace at Nellemby; when he caused it to be declared unto us, that we were no longer prisoners:" and, (which indeed was our own addition) that we were free to enjoy the benefit of trade in all his dominions.

To prove and confirm the truth of which, we alleged the distance of the way that we were now come from home, being near a hundred miles; passing through several countries, where we met with several governors and officers in their respective jurisdictions; who, had they not been well sensible of these privileges granted us, would not have allowed us to pass through their countries:—all which officers we described to him by name. And also, that now we came from the high sheriff's house at Colliwilla, where we had been these three days; and there heard of the order that was come to secure the watches: which was not for fear of the running away of white men, but of the Chingulays. These reasons gave him full satisfaction that we were innocent traders; seeing also, the commodities that we had brought with us, this further confirmed his opinion concerning us.

..ovide things necessary for their flight.

The people were very glad of our coming, and gave us an end of an open house to lie in: but at present they had no dried flesh, but desired us to stay two or three days and we

should not fail: which we were very ready to consent to, hoping by that time to come to a knowledge of the way, and to learn where about the watch was placed. To prevent the least surmise that we were plotting to run away, we agreed that Stephen should stay in the house by the things, while I with some few went abroad; pretending to inquire for dried flesh to carry back with us to Candy: but, intending to make discoveries of the way, and provide necessaries for our flight: as rice, a brass pot to boil our rice in; a little dried flesh to eat; and a deer's-skin to make us shoes of. And, by the providence of my gracious God, all these things I happened upon and bought; but, as our goodhap was, deer's-flesh we could meet with none: so that we had time enough to fit ourselves; all people thinking that we staid only to buy flesh.

Here we staid three days; during which he had found the great road that runs down towards Jafnapatan; one of the northern ports belonging to the Dutch, which road we judged led also towards Manaar, a Dutch northern port also, which was the place we endeavoured to get to; lying above two or three days journey distant from us. But in this road there was a watch lay, which must be passed Where this watch was placed it was necessary for us punctually to know, and to endeavour to get a sight of it: and, if we could do this, our intent was to go unseen by night, the people being then afraid to travel; and, being come up to the watch, to slip aside into the woods, and so go on until we were past it, and then strike into the road again. But this project came to nothing, because I could not, without suspicion and danger, go and view this watch, which laid some four or five miles below this plain, and so far I could not frame any business to go.

They find it not safe to proceed further this way.

But several inconveniencies we saw here, insomuch that we found it would not be safe for us to go down in this road; for, if we should have slipt away from them by night, in the morning we should be missed; and then most surely they would go that way to chace us, and ten to one overtake us, being but one night before them. Also, we knew not whether or no it might lead us into the country of the Malabar prince, of whom we were much afraid.

Then resolving to let the great road alone, we thought of going right down through the woods, and st r our course by the sun and moon; but, the ground being so dry, we feared we should not meet with water; so we declined that counsel also. Thus, being in doubt, we prayed to God to direct us, and to put it into our hearts which way to take. Then, after a consultation between ourselves, all things considered, we concluded it the best course to go back to Malwat Oyah; the river we had well viewed, that lay in our way as we came hither. And back thither we resolved to repair.

Resolve to go back to the river they lately passed.

CHAP. X.

The Author's Progress in his Flight from Anarodgburro, into the Woods, until their Arrival in the Malabars Country.

NOW God of his mercy having prospered our design hitherto, for which we blessed his holy Name, our next care was how to come off clear from the people of Anarodgburro, that they might not presently miss us, and so pursue after us; which, if they should do, there would have been no escaping them. For from this town to Colliwilla, where the sheriff lived, with whom we left our goods, they are as well acquainted in the woods as in the paths. And when we came away we must tell the people that we were going thither, because there is no other way but that. Now our fear was, lest upon some occasion or other any men might chance to travel that way soon after we were gone, and not finding us at Colliwilla, might conclude, as they could do no otherwise, that we were run into the woods. Therefore to avoid this danger, we staid in the town till it was so late, that we knew none durst venture to travel afterwards, for fear of wild beasts; by which means we were sure to gain a night's travel at least, if they should chance to pursue us. They depart back again towards the river.

So we took our leaves of the governor, who kindly gave us a pot of milk to drink for a farewell, we telling him, "We were returning back to the sheriff at Colliwilla, to whom we had given some gunpowder when we came from him, to shoot us But first take their leave of the governor here.

some deer, and we doubted not but by that time we should get to him, he would have provided flesh enough for our lading home." Thus bidding him and the rest of the neighbours farewell, we departed, they giving us the civility of their acccustomed prayers, Diabec; that is, God bless or keep you.

They begin their flight.

It was now the twelfth day of October, on a Sunday, the moon eighteen days old. We were well furnished with all things needful, which we could get, viz. ten days provision, rice, flesh, pepper, salt, a bason to boil our victuals in, two calabasses to fetch water, two great tallipats for tents, big enough to sleep under if it should rain, jaggory and sweet-meats, which we brought from home with us, tobacco also, and betel, tinder-boxes, two or three for failing, and a deer's skin to make us shoes, to prevent any thorns running into our feet as we travelled through the woods, for our greatest trust under God was to our feet. Our weapons were, each man a small axe fastened to a long staff in our hands, and a good knife by our sides; which were sufficient, with God's help, to defend us from the assaults of either tiger or bear; and as for elephants there is no standing against them, but the best defence is to flee from them.

In this posture and equipage we marched forward. When we were come within a mile of this river, it being about four in the evening, we began to fear lest any of the people of Anarodgburro, from whence we came, should follow us to Colliwilla; which place we never intended to come at more, the river along which we intended to go laying on this side of it. That we might be secure therefore that no people came after us, we sat down upon a rock by a hole that was full of water in the highway, until it was so late, that we were sure no people durst

travel. In case any had come after us, and seen us sitting there and gotten no further, we intended to tell them, that one of us was taken sick by the way, and therefore not able to go. But it was our happy chance there came none. So about sun-dawn we took up our sacks of provisions, and marched forward for the river, which under God we had pitched upon to be our guide down to the sea.

They come to the river along which they resolved to go.

Being come at the river, we left the road, and struck into the woods by the river side. We were exceeding careful not to tread on the sand or soft ground, lest our footsteps should be seen; and, where it could not be avoided, we went backwards; so that by the print of our feet, it seemed as if we had gone the contrary way. We were now gotten a good way into the wood, when it grew dark and began to rain, so that we thought it best to pitch our tents, and get wood for firing, before it was all wet, and too dark to find it;—which we did, and kindled a fire.

Which they travel along by till it was dark.

Then we began to fit ourselves for our journey against the moon arose. All our sale-wares which we had left we cast away, (for we took care not to sell too much) keeping only provisions and what was very necessary for our journey. About our feet we tied pieces of deers hide to prevent thorns and stumps annoying our feet. We always used to travel bare-foot, but now being to travel by night and in the woods, we feared so to do; for if our feet should fail us now, we were quite undone. And by the time we had well fitted ourselves, and were refreshed with a morsel of Portuguese sweet-meats, the moon began to shine. So having commended ourselves into the hands of the Almighty, we took up our provisions upon our shoulders, and set forward, and travelled some three or four hours, but with a great deal of

Now they fit themselves for their journey.

difficulty; for the trees being thick, the moon gave but little light through—but our resolution was to keep going.

Meeting with an elephant they took up for that night.

Now it was our chance to meet with an elephant in our way just before us, which we tried, but could not scare away; so he forced us to stay. We kindled a fire and sat down, and took a pipe of tobacco, waiting till morning. Then we looked round about us, and it appeared all like a wilderness, and no signs that people ever had been there, which put us in great hopes that we had gained our passage, and were past all the inhabitants. Whereupon we concluded, that we were now in no danger of being seen, and might travel in the day securely. There was only one great road in our way, which led to Portaloon from the towns which by and bye we fell into; this road therefore we were shy of, lest when we passed it over, some passengers travelling in it, might see us; and this road we were in expectance about this time to meet withal, secure, as I said before, of all other danger of people. But the river winding about to the northward, brought us into the midst of a parcel of towns called Tissea Wava, before we were aware; for the country being all woods, we could not discern where there were towns, until we came within the hearing of them. That which betrayed us into this danger was, that meeting with a path, which only led from one town to another, we concluded it to be that great road above-mentioned; and so having past it over, we supposed the danger we might encounter in being seen, was also past over with it; but we were mistaken—for going further we still met with other paths, which we crossed over, still hoping one or other of them was that great road; but at last we perceived our error; viz. that they were only paths that went from one town to another.

They fall in among towns before they are aware,

And so while we were avoiding men and towns, we ran into the midst of them. This was a great trouble to us, hearing the noise of people round about us, and knew not how to avoid them; into whose hands we knew if we had fallen, they would have carried us up to the king, besides beating and plundering us to boot.

We knew before that these towns were here away; but had we known that this river turned and run in among them, we should never have undertaken the enterprize. But now to go back, after we had newly passed so many paths, and fields, and places where people did resort, we thought not advisable; and that the danger in so doing might be greater than in going forward—and had we known so much then, as afterwards did appear to us, it had been safer for us to have gone on, than to have hid there as we did: which we then thought was the best course we could take for the present extremity; viz. to secure ourselves in secret until night, and then to run through in the dark. All that we now wanted was a hole to creep in to lie close, for the woods thereabouts were thin, and no shrubs or bushes, under which we might be concealed.

We heard the noise of people on every side, and expected every moment to see some of them to our great terror; and it is not easy to say in what danger, and in what apprehension of it we were: it was not safe for us to stir backwards or forwards, for fear of running among people, and it was as unsafe to stand still where we were, lest somebody might spy us; and where to find covert we could not tell. Looking about us in these straits, we spied a great tree by us, which, for the bigness thereof, 'tis probable might be hollow; to which we went, and found it so:

Their fright lest they should be seen.

Hid themselves in a hollow tree.

It was like a tub, some three feet high; into it immediately we both crept, and made a shift to sit there for several hours; though very uneasy, and all in mud and wet. But, however, it did greatly comfort us in the fright and amazement we were in.

They get safely over this danger.

So soon as it began to grow dark we came creeping out of our hollow tree, and put for it as fast as our legs could carry us; and then we crossed that great road, which all the day before we did expect to come up with; keeping close by the river side, and going so long till dark night stopped us. We kept going the longer, because we heard the voice of men hollowing towards evening, which created us a fresh disturbance; thinking them to be people that were coming to chace us. But at length we heard elephants behind us, between us and the voice; which we knew by the noise of cracking the boughs and small trees which they break down and eat. These elephants were a very good guard behind us; and were, methought, like the darkness that came between Israel and the Egyptians. For, the people we knew, would not dare to go forwards hearing elephants before them.

They dress meat, and lay down to sleep.

In this security we pitched our tents by the river side, and boiled rice and roasted flesh for our supper, for we were very hungry; and so, commending ourselves to God's keeping, laid down to sleep. The voice which we heard still continued, which lasting so long, we knew what it meant; it was nothing but the hollowing of people that lay to watch the corn fields, to scare away the wild beasts out of their corn. Thus we past Monday.

But, nevertheless, next morning, so soon as the moon shone out bright, to prevent the worst, we took up our packs, and were gone—being past all the tame inhabitants, with whom we had no more trouble; but the next day we feared we should come among the wild ones; for these woods are full of them; of these we were as much afraid as of the other: for they would have carried us back to the king, where we should be kept prisoners; but these, we feared, would have shot us, not standing to hear us plead for ourselves.

They fear wild men, which these woods abound with.

And indeed all along, as we went by the sides of the river, till we came to the Malabar inhabitants, had been the tents of wild men, made only of boughs of trees: but, God be praised, they were all gone, though but very lately before we came; as we perceived by the bones of cattle, and shells of fruit, which lay scattered about. We supposed that want of water had driven them out of the country down to the river side; but since it had rained a shower or two they were gone again. Once about noon, sitting down upon a rock by the river side, to take a pipe of tobacco and rest ourselves, we had almost been discovered by the women of these wild people, coming down, as I suppose, to wash themselves in the river; who being many of them, came talking and laughing together. At the first hearing of the noise, being a good distance, we marvelled what it was: sitting still and listening, it came nearer, a little above where we sat; and at last we could plainly distinguish it to be the voices of women and children: whereupon we thought it no boot to sit longer, since we could escape undiscovered, and so took up our bags, and fled as fast as we cculd.

They meet with many of their tents.

Very near falling upon the wild people.

Thus we kept travelling every day, from morning till night,

What kind of travelling they had

still along by the river side, which turned and winded very crooked. In some places it would be pretty good travelling, and but few bushes and thorns, and in others a great many. So that our shoulders and arms were all of a gore, being grievously torn and scratched; for we had nothing on us but a clout about our middles, and our victuals on our shoulders, and in our hands a tallipat and an axe.

Some account of this river.

The lower we came down this river the less water, so that sometimes we could go a mile or two upon the sand; and, in some places, three or four rivers would all meet together. When it happened so, and was noon, the sun over our head, and the water not running, we could not tell which to follow, but were forced to stay till the sun was fallen, thereby to judge of our course. We often met with bears, hogs, deer, and wild buffaloes, but all ran so soon as they saw us; but elephants we met with no more than that I mentioned before. The river is exceeding full of aligators, all along as we went; the upper part of it nothing but rocks. Here and there, by the side of this river is a world of hewn stone pillars, standing upright, and other heaps of hewn stones, which I suppose formerly were buildings; and in three or four places are the ruins of bridges, built of stone; some remains of them yet standing upon stone pillars. In many places are points built out into the river like wharfs, all of hewn stone; which, I suppose, have been built for kings to sit upon for pleasure. For, I cannot think they ever were employed for traffic by water, the river being so full of rocks that boats could never come up into it.

Ruins.

The woods hereabouts.

The woods in all these northern parts are short and shrubbed, and so they are by the river side, and the lower the worse; and the grounds so also.

How they secured themselves a-nights against wild beasts.

In the evenings we used to pitch our tent, and make a great fire both before and behind us, that the wild beasts might have notice where we lay, and we used to hear the voices of all sorts of them; but, thanks be to God, none ever came near to hurt us. Yet we were the more wary of them, because once a tiger shewed us a cheat; for, having bought a deer, and having nothing to salt it up in, we packed it up in the hide thereof salted, and laid it under a bench in an open house on which I lay that night, and Stephen laid just by it on the ground; and, some three people more lay then in the same house; and, in the said house a great fire, and another in the yard: yet a tiger came in the night, and carried deer and hide, and all away. But we missing it concluded it was a thief. We called up the people that lay by us, and told them what had happened: who informed us that it was a tiger; and with a torch they went to see which way he had gone, and presently found some of it, which he let drop by the way. When it was day we went further, and picked more which was scattered, till we came to the hide itself; which remained uneaten.

They pass the river that divides the king's country from the Malabars.

We had now travelled till Thursday afternoon, when we crossed the river called Coronda Oyah, which was then quite dry;—this parts the king's country from the Malabars. We saw no sign of inhabitants here; the woods began to be very full of thorns and shrubby bushes, with clifts and broken land; so that we could not possibly go into the woods: but now the river grew better, being clear of rocks and dry, water only standing in holes. So we marched along in the river upon the sand. Hereabouts are far more elephants than higher up; by day we saw none, but by night the river is full of them.

After four or five days travel they come among inhabitants.

Friday, about nine or ten in the morning, we came among the inhabitants; for then we saw the footing of people on the sand, and tame cattle with bells about their necks. Yet we kept on our way right down the river, knowing no other course to take to shun the people. And, as we went still forward, we saw Coracan corn sowed in the woods, but neither towns nor people; nor so much as the voice of man. But yet we were somewhat dismayed, knowing that we were now in a country inhabited by Malabars. The wanniounay, or prince of this people, for fear pays tribute to the Dutch; but stands far more affected towards the King of Candy: which made our care the greater to keep ourselves out of his hands; fearing, lest if he did not keep us himself, he might send us up to our old master. So that great was our terror again; lest, meeting with people we might be discovered:—yet there was no means now left us how to avoid the danger of being seen. The woods were so bad, that we could not possibly travel in them for thorns; and to travel by night was impossible, it being a dark moon; and, the river a-nights so full of elephants and other wild beasts coming to drink, as we did both hear and see, laying upon the banks with a fire by us. They came in such numbers, because there was water for them no where else to be had; the ponds and holes of water, nay, the river itself in many places being dry.

But do what they can to avoid them.

As yet undiscovered.

There was therefore no other way to be taken but to travel on in the river:—so down we went into the sand, and put on as fast as we could set our legs to the ground; seeing no people (nor I think nobody us), only buffaloes in abundance in the water.

CHAP. XI.

Being in the Malabar Territories, how they encountered two Men, and what passed between them. And of their getting safe unto the Dutch Fort. And their Reception there, and at the Island Manaar, until their embarking for Columbo.

THUS we went on till about three of the clock, afternoon. At which time coming about a point, we came up with two Bramins on a sudden, who were sitting under a tree boiling rice. We were within forty paces of them; when they saw us they were amazed at us, and as much afraid of us as we were of them. Now we thought it better policy to treat with them than to flee from them; fearing they might have bows and arrows, whereas we were armed only with axes in our hands, and knives by our sides; or else that they might raise the country and pursue us. So we made a stand, and in the Chingulay language asked their leave to come near to treat with them; but they did not understand it. But being risen up spake to us in the Malabar tongue, which we could not understand. Then still standing at a distance, we intimated our minds to them by signs, beckoning with our hand, which they answered in the same language. Then offering to go towards them, and seeing them to be naked men and no arms near them, we laid our axes upon the ground with our bags, lest we might scare them, if we had come up to them with those weapons in our hands, and so went towards them with

They meet with two Malabars, to whom they relate their condition.

only our knives by our sides: by signs with our hands, shewing them our bloody backs, we made them understand whence we came, and whither we were going. Which when they perceived they seemed to commiserate our condition, and greatly to admire at such a miracle which God had brought to pass: and as they talked one to another they lifted up th ir hands and faces towards heaven, often repeating Tombrane, which is God in the Malabar tongue.

They are courteous to them.

And by their signs we understood they would have us bring our bags and axes nearer; which we had no sooner done, but they brought the rice and herbs which they had boiled for themselves to us, and bad us eat; whicn we were not fitted to do, having not long before eaten a hearty dinner of better fare; yet could not but thankfully accept of their compassion and kindness, and eat as much as we could; and, in requital of their courtesy, we gave them some of our tobacco; which after much entreating they did receive, and it pleased them exceedingly.

But loath to conduct them to the Hollanders.

After these civilities passed on either side, we began by signs to desire them to go with us and shew us the way to the Dutch Fort; which they were very unwilling to do, saying, as by signs and some few words which we could understand, that our greatest danger was past, and that by night we might get into the Hollander's dominions. Yet we being weary with our tedious journey, and desirous to have a guide, shewed them money to the value of five shillings, being all I had; and offered it them to go with us. Which, together with our great importunity so prevailed, that one of them took it; and, leaving his fellow to carry their baggage, he went with

us about one mile, and then began to take his leave of us, and to return: which we supposed was to get more from us. Having therefore no more money, we gave him a red Tunis cap and a knife; for which he went a mile farther, and then as before would leave us, signifying to us, that we were out of danger, and he could go no further.

Now we had no more left to give him, but began to perceive, that what we had parted withal to him, was but flung away; and although we might have taken all from him again, being alone in the wood, yet we feared to do it, lest thereby we might exasperate him, and so he might give notice of us to the people; but bad him farewel, after he had conducted us about four or five miles. And we kept on our journey down the river as before, until it was night, and lodged upon a bank under a tree: but were in the way of the elephants; for in the night they came and had like to have disturbed us, so that for the preservation we were forced to fling fire brands at them to scare them away.

In danger of elephants.

The next morning being Saturday as soon as it was light, having eaten to strengthen us, as horses do oats before they travel, we set forth going still down the river; the sand was dry and loose, and so very tedious to go upon: by the side we could not go, being all overgrown with bushes. The land hereabouts was as smooth as a bowling-green, but the grass clean burnt up for want of rain.

They overtake another man, who tells them they were in the Dutch dominions.

Having travelled about two hours, we saw a man walking in the river before, whom we would gladly have shunned, but well could not; for he walked down the river as we did,

but at a very slow rate, which much hindered us. But we considering upon the distance we had come, since we left the Bramin, and comparing with what he had told us, we concluded we were in the Hollander's jurisdiction, and so amended our pace to overtake the man before us; whom we, perceiving to be free from timorousness at the sight of us, concluded he had used to see white men: whereupon we asked him to whom he belonged? He, speaking the Chingulay language, answered—to the Dutch; and also, that all the country was under their command, and that we were out of all danger, and that the fort of Arrepa was but some six miles off; which did not a little rejoice us. We told him, we were of that nation, and had made our escape from Candy, where we had been many years kept in captivity; and, having nothing to give him ourselves, we told him, that it was not to be doubted, but the chief commander at that fort would bountifully reward him, if he would go with us, and direct us thither. But, whether he doubted of that, or no, or whether he expected something in hand, he excused himself—pretending earnest and urgent occasions that he could not defer; but advised us to leave the river, because it winds so much about, and turn up without fear to the towns, where the people would direct us the way to the fort.

They arrive at Arrepa Fort.

Upon his advice we struck up a path that came down to the river, intending to go to a town, but could find none; and there were so many cross paths that we could not tell which way to go—and the land here so exceedingly low and level, that we could see no other thing but trees. For, although I got up a tree to look if I could see the Dutch fort, or discern any houses, yet I could not; and the sun being right over our heads, neither could that direct us; insomuch that we wished ourselves again

in our old friend, the river. So after so much wandering up and down, we sat down under a tree waiting until the sun was fallen, or some people came by; which, not long after, three or four Malabars did: one of which could speak a little Portuguese. We told these men we were Hollanders, supposing they would be the more willing to go with us, but they proved of the same temper with the rest before mentioned; for until I gave one of them a small knife to cut betel nuts, he would not go with us—but for the lucre of that he conducted us to a town: from whence they sent a man with us to the next, and so we passed from town to town until we arrived at the fort called Arrepa; it being about four of the clock on Saturday afternoon, October the 18th, 1679; which day God grant us grace that we may never forget—when he was pleased to give us so great a deliverance from such a long captivity of nineteen years and six months, and odd days, being taken prisoner when I was nineteen years old, and continued upon the mountains among the heathen, till I attained to eight and thirty.

He travels a-nights in the woods withontfear, and slept securely.

In this my flight through the woods, I cannot but take notice, with some wonder and great thankfulness, that this travelling by night in a desolate wilderness, was little or nothing dreadful to me, whereas formerly the very thoughts of it would seem to dread me; and in the night when I laid down to rest with wild beasts round me, I slept as soundly and securely as ever I did at home in my own house: which courage and peace I look upon to be the immediate gift of God to me upon my earnest prayers; which, at that time, he poured into my heart in great measure and fervency: after which, I found myself freed from those frights and fears, which usually possessed my heart at other times.

In short, I look upon the whole business as a miraculous Providence, and that the hand of God did eminently appear to me, as it did of old to his people Israel in the like circumstances, in leading and conducting me through this dreadful wilderness, and not to suffer any evil to approach nigh unto me.

Entertained very kindly.

The Hollanders much wondered at our arrival, it being so strange that any should escape from Candy, and entertained us very kindly that night; and the next morning, being Sunday, sent a corporal with us to Manaar, and a black man to carry our few things.

Sent to Manaar. Received by the captain of the castle.

At Manaar we were brought before the captain of the castle, the chief governor being absent; who, when we came in was just risen from dinner: he received us with a great deal of kindness, and bade us sit down to eat. It seemed not a little strange to us, who had dwelt so long in straw cottages among the black heathen, and used to sit on the ground, and eat our meat on leaves; now to sit on chairs, and eat out of China dishes at a table—where were great varieties, and a fair and sumptuous house inhabited by white and Christian people; we being then in such habit and guise, our natural colour excepted, that we seemed not fit to eat with his servants, no nor his slaves.

Who intended them to sail the next day to Jafnapatan.

After dinner the captain enquired concerning the affairs of the king and country, and the condition of their ambassadors and people there; to all which we gave them true and satisfactory answers. Then he told us, that to-morrow there was a sloop to sail to Jafnapatan, in which he would send us to the commander or governor, from whence we might have passage to Fort St. George, or any other place on that coast, according to our

desire. After this, he gave us some money, bidding us go to the castle, to drink and be merry with our countrymen there: for all which kindness, giving him many thanks in the Portuguese language, we took our leaves of him.

When we came to the court of guard at the castle, we asked the soldiers if there were no Englishmen among them. Immediately there came forth two men to us, the one a Scotchman, named Andrew Brown; the other an Irishman, whose name was Francis Hodges; who, after very kind salutes, carried us unto their lodgings in the castle, and entertained us very nobly, according to their ability, with rack and tobacco.

Here they meet with a Scotch and Irish man.

The news of our arrival being spread in the town, the people came flocking to see us—a strange and wonderful sight! and some to enquire about their husbands, sons, and relations, which were prisoners in Candy.

The people flock to see them.

In the evening, a gentleman of the town sent to invite us to his house, where we were gallantly entertained both with victuals and lodging.

The next day being Monday, ready to embark for Jafnapatan, came order from the captain and council, that we must stay until the commander of Jafnapatan, who was daily expected, came thither; which we could not deny to do: and order was given to the victuallers of the soldiers to provide for us. The Scotch and Irish man were very glad of this order, that they might have our company longer; and would not suffer us to spend the captain's benevolence in their company, but spent freely upon us at their own charges. Thanks be to God we

They are ordered a longer stay.

both continued in health at the time of our escape; but, within three days after we came to Manaar, my companion fell very sick, that I thought I should have lost him.

They embark for Columbo.

Thus we remained some ten days, at which time the expected commander arrived, and was received with great ceremonies of state. The next day we went before him to receive his orders concerning us; which were, to be ready to go with him on the morrow to Columbo, there being a ship that had long waited in that road to carry him, in which we embarked with him for Columbo. At our coming on board to go to sea, we could not but expect to be sea sick, being now as fresh men, having so long disused the sea; but it proved otherwise, and we were not in the least stirred.

CHAP. XII.

Their Arrival at Columbo, and Entertainment there: their Departure thence to Batavia, and from thence to Bantam; whence they set sail for England.

BEING arrived safely at Columbo, before the ship came to an anchor, there came a barge on board, to carry the commander ashore; but, being late in the evening, and my consort sick of an ague and fever, we thought it better for us to stay until morning, to have a day before us. The next morning we bid the skipper farewell, and went ashore in the first boat, going straight to the court of guard; where all the soldiers came staring upon us, wondering to see white men in Chingulay habit. We asked them, If there were no Englishmen among them? they told us, There were none—but that in the city there were several:—a trumpeter being hard by, who had formerly sailed in English ships, hearing of us, came and invited us to his chamber, and entertained my consort, being sick of his ague in his own bed.

They are wondered at at Columbo.

This strange news of our arrival from Candy was presently spread all about the city, and all the Englishmen that were there immediately come to bid us welcome out of our long captivity; with whom we consulted how to come to speech of the governor; upon which one of them went and acquainted the captain of the guard, of our being on shore; which the captain

Ordered to appear before the governor.

understanding, went and informed the governor thereof—who sent us answer, that to-morrow we should come before him.

reated by nglish ere.

After my consort's fit was over, our countrymen and their friends invited us abroad, to walk and see the city; we, being barefooted, and in the Chingulay habit, with great long beards, the people much wondered at us, and came flocking to see who, and what we were; so that we had a great train of people about us as we walked in the streets. After we had walked to and fro, and had seen the city, they carried us to their landlady's house, where we were kindly treated both with victuals and drink, and returned to the trumpeter's chamber, as he had desired us when we went out. In the evening came a boy from the governor's house, to tell us, that the governor invited us to come to supper at his house: but we, having dined late with our countrymen and their friends, had no room to receive the governor's kindness, and so lodged that night at the trumpeter's.

They come into the governor's presence. His state.

The next morning, the governor, whose name was Ricklof Van Gons, son of Ricklof Van Gons, general of Batavia, sent for us to his house, whom we found standing in a large and stately room, paved with black and white stones, and only the commander, who brought us from Manaar, standing by him, who was to succeed him in the government of that place. On the further side of the room stood three of the chief captains, bareheaded. First, he bid us welcome out of our long captivity, and told us—that we were free men, and that he should have been glad if he could have been an instrument to redeem us sooner, having endeavoured as much for us as for his own people. For all which we thanked him heartily, telling him, we knew it to be true.

The governor perceiving I could speak the Portugueze tongue, began to inquire concerning the affairs of the king and country very particularly, and oftentimes asked about such matters as he himself knew better than I. To all his questions my too much experience enabled me to give a satisfactory reply. Some of the most remarkable matters he demanded of me were these :— Matters the governor inquired of.

First, they inquired much about the reason and intent of our coming to Cuttiar? To which I answered them at large. Then they asked, If the King of Candy had any issue? I told them, As report went, he had none. And, Who were the greatest in the realm next to him? I answered, There were none of renown left—the king had destroyed them all.—How the hearts of the people stood affected? I answered, "Much against their king, he being so cruel."—If we had never been brought into his presence? I told them, "No, nor had ever had a near sight of him."—What strength he had for war? I answered, Not well able to assault them, by reason the hearts of his people were not true to him; but that the strength of his country consisted in mountains and woods, as much as in the people.

What army he could raise upon occasion? I answered, I knew not well, but as I thought about thirty thousand men.

Why he would not make peace with them, they so much sueing for it, and sending presents to please him? I answered, "I was not one of his council, and knew not his meaning."

But they demanded of me, What I thought might be the reason or occasion of it? I answered, "Living securely in

the mountains, he feareth none; and for traffic he regardeth it not."

Which way was best and most secure to send spies or intelligence to Candy? I told them, "By the way that goeth to Jafnaputtan, and by some of that country people, who have great correspondence with the people of Neurecaulava, one of the king's countries."

What I thought would become of that land after this king's decease? I told them, "I thought, he having no issue, it might fall into their hands."

How many Englishmen had served the king, and what became of them? which I gave them an account of.

Whether I had any acquaintance or discourse with the great men at court? I answered, "That I was too small to have any friendship or intimacy, or hold discourse with them."

How the common people used to talk concerning them? I answered, "They used much to commend their justice and good government in the territories, and over the people belonging unto them."

Whether the king did take counsel of any, or rule and act only by his own will and pleasure? I answered, "I was a stranger at court, and how could I know that?"

But, they asked further, What was my opinion? I replied,

"He is so great, that there is none great enough to give him counsel."

Concerning the French, If the king knew not of their coming before they came? I answered, "I thought not; because their coming seemed strange and wonderful unto the people."

How they had proceeded in treating with the king? I answered, as shall be related hereafter, when I come to speak of the French detained in this land.

If I knew any way or means to be used, whereby the prisoners in Candy might be set free? I told them, Means, I knew none, unless they could do it by war.

Also, they enquired about the manner of executing those whom the king commands to be put to death? They enquired also very curiously concerning the manner of our surprizal, and entertainment, or usage among them—and in what parts of the land we had our residence; and particularly concerning myself, in what parts of the land, and how long in each I had dwelt, and after what manner I lived there, and of my age; and in what part or place when God sends me home, I should take up my abode? To all which I gave answers.

They desired to know also, how many Englishmen there were yet remaining behind? I gave them an account of sixteen men, and also of eighteen children born there. They much enquired concerning their ambassadors detained there, and of their behaviour and manner of living; also what the king allowed them for maintenance—and concerning several officers of quality,

prisoners there: and in general about all the rest of their nation; and what countenance the king shewed to those Dutchmen that came running away to him? I answered, "The Dutch runaways the king looks upon as rogues." And concerning the Portugueze they enquired also: I told them, the Portugueze were about some fifty or threescore persons, and six or seven of those Europe men born.

They asked me, moreover, how we had made our escape, and which way, and by what towns we passed, and how long we were in our journey? To all which I answered at large.

The governor desires him to go to Batavia.

Then the governor asked me, what was my intent and desire? I told him, to have passage to our own nation at fort St. George. To which he answered, that suddenly there would be no convenient opportunity. But his desire was that we would go with him to Batavia, where the general his father would be very glad to see us, which was not in our power to deny. Then he commanded to call a Dutch captain, who was over the countries adjacent, subject to their jurisdiction. To him he gave order to take us home to his house, and there well to entertain us, and also to send for a tailor to make us clothes. Upon which I told him, his kindness shewn us already was more than we could have desired; it would be a sufficient favour now to supply us with a little money upon a bill to be paid at fort St. George, that we might therewith clothe ourselves. To which he answered, that he would not deny me any sum I should demand, and clothe us upon his own account besides. For which we humbly thanked his lordship; and so took our leaves of him, and went home with the aforesaid captain.

Clothes them.

The governor presently sent me money by his steward for expenses when we walked abroad in the city. We were nobly entertained without lack of any thing all the time we staid at Columbo. My consort's ague increased, and grew very bad; but the chief chirurgeon by order daily came to see him, and gave him such potions of physic, that by God's blessing he soon after recovered.

Sends them money.

And a chirurgeon.

During my being here, I writ a letter to my fellow prisoners I left behind me in Candy: wherein I described at large the way we went, so that they might plainly understand the same. Which I finding to be safe and secure, advised them, when God permitted, to steer the same course. This letter I left with the new governor, and desired him, when opportunity presented, to send it to them. Who said he would have it copied out into Dutch for the benefit of their prisoners there, and promised to send both together.

The author writes a letter to the English at Candy.

The governor seemed to be pleased with my aforesaid relations and replies to his demands, insomuch, that he afterwards appointed one that well understood Portugueze to write down all the former particulars. Which being done, for further satisfaction they brought me pen and paper, desiring me to write the same that I had related to them in English, and sign it with my hand, which I was not unwilling to do.

The former demands and answers penned down in Portugueze by the governor's order.

Upon the governor's departure there were great and royal feasts made: to which he always sent for me. Here were exceeding great varieties of food, wine, and sweetmeats, and music. Some two and twenty days after our arrival at Co-

They embark for Batavia.

lumbo, the governor went on board ship to sail to Batavia, and took us with him. At which time there were many scores of ordnance fired. We sailed all the way with flag and penant under it, being out both day and night, in a ship of about eight hundred tuns burthen; and a soldier standing armed sentinel at the cabin door both night and day. He so far favoured me, that I was in his own mess, and eat at his table; where every meal we had ten or twelve dishes of meat with variety of wine. We set sail from Columbo the four and twentieth of November, and the fifth of January anchored in Batavia road.

His friendly reception at Batavia with the governor.

As we came to greater men so we found greater kindness; for the General of Batavia's reception of us and favours to us exceeded (if possible) those of the governor his son. As soon as we came before him, seeming to be very glad, he took me by the hand, and bad us heartily welcome, thanking God on our behalf that had appeared so miraculously in our deliverance; telling us withal, that he had omitted no means for our redemption, and that if it had laid in his power, we should long before have had our liberty. I humbly thanked his excellency, and said, that I knew it to be true; and that though it missed of an effect, yet his good will was not the less, neither were our obligations, being ever bound to thank and pray for him.

Furnishes them with the clothes and money.

Then his own tailor was ordered to take measure of us, and furnish us with two suits of apparel. He gave us also money for tobacco and betel, and to spend in the city. All the time we staid there, our quarters were in the captain

of the castle's house. And oftentimes the general would send for me to his own table, at which sat only himself and lady, who was all bespangled with diamonds and pearls. Sometimes his sons and daughters-in-law, with some other strangers, did eat with him; the trumpet sounding all the while. We finding ourselves thus kindly entertained, and our habits changed, saw that we were no more captives in Candy, nor yet prisoners elsewhere; therefore cut off our beards, which we had brought with us out of our captivity; for until then we cut them not; God having rolled away the reproach of Candy from us.

Here also they did examine me again concerning the passages of Candy, causing all to be writ down which I said, and requiring my hand to the same: which I refused, as I had done before, and upon the same account, because I understood not the Dutch language. Whereupon they persuaded me to write a certificate upon another paper under my hand, that what I had informed them of was true: which I did. This examination was taken by two secretaries, who were appointed to demand answers of me concerning the King of Ceylon and his country; which they committed to writing from my mouth.

The general's youngest son being to go home admiral of the ships this year, the general kindly offered us passage upon their ships, promising me entertainment at his son's own table, as the Governor of Columbo had given me in my voyage hither. Which offer he made me, he said, that I might better satisfy their company in Holland concerning the affairs of Ceylon, which they would be very glad to know.

Offer him passage in their ships.

Come home from Bantam in the Cæsar.

At this time came two English merchants hither from Bantam, with whom the general was pleased to permit us to go. But when we came to Bantam, the English agent very kindly entertained us, and being not willing that we should go to the Dutch for passage, since God had brought us to our own nation, ordered our passage in the good ship Cæsar, lying then in the road bound for England, the land of our nativity, and our long wished-for port: where, by the good providence of God, we arrived safe in the month of September.

CHAP. XIII.

Concerning some other Nations, and chiefly Europeans, that now live in this Island. Portugueze, Dutch.

HAVING said all this concerning the English people, it may not be unacceptable to give some account of other whites, who either voluntarily or by constraint inhabit there. And they are, besides the English already spoken of, Portugueze, Dutch, and French. But before I enter upon discourse of any of these, I shall detain my readers a little with another nation inhabiting in this land, I mean, the Malabars; both because they are strangers and derive themselves from another country, and also because I have had occasion to mention them sometimes in this book.

These Malabars then are voluntary inhabitants in this Island, and have a country here; though the limits of it are but small: it lies to the northward of the king's coasts, betwixt him and the Hollander. Corunda Wy river parts it from the king's territories. Through this country we passed, when we made our escape. The language they speak is peculiar to themselves; so that a Chingulay cannot understand them, nor they a Chingulay.

Concerni Malabars that inha in this I land. Their ter tories.

They have a prince over them, called Coilat Wannea, that

Their prince.

is independent either upon the King of Candy on one hand, or the Dutch on the other, only that he pays an acknowledgment to the Hollanders, who have endeavoured to subdue him by wars, but they cannot yet do it: yet they have brought him to be a tributary to them, viz. to pay a certain rate of elephants per annum. The king and this prince maintain a friendship and correspondence together. And when the king lately sent an army against the Hollanders, this prince let them pass through his country; and went himself in person to direct the king's people, when they took one or two forts from them.

The people how governed.

The people are in great subjection under him: they pay him rather greater taxes than the Chingulays do to their king. But he is nothing so cruel. He victualleth his soldiers during the time they are upon the guard, either about the palace or abroad in the wars—they are now fed at his charge: whereas it is contrary in the king's country; for the Chingulay soldiers bear their own expenses. He hath a certain rate out of every land that is sown, which is to maintain his charge.

Their commodities and trade.

The commodities of this country are, elephants, honey, butter, milk, wax, cows, wild cattle: of the three last great abundance. As for corn it is more scarce than in the Chingulay's country; neither have they any cotton. But they come up into Neure Caulava yearly with great droves of cattle, and lade both corn and cotton. And to buy these they bring up cloth made of the same cotton, which they make better than the Chingulays; also they bring salt and salt fish, and brass basons, and other commodities, which they get of the Hollander: because the king permits not his people to have any manner of trade

with the Hollander: so they receive the Dutch commodities at the second hand.

We now proceed unto the European nations. And we begin with the Portugueze, who deserve the first place, being the oldest standers there.

Concerning the Portugueze.

The sea-coasts round about the Island were formerly under their power and government, and so held for many years. In which time many of the natives became Christians, and learned the Portugueze tongue. Which to this day is much spoken in that land: for even the king himself understands and speaks it excellently well. The Portugueze have often made invasions throughout the whole land, even to Candy, the metropolis of the Island; which they have burnt more than once, with the palace and the temples: and so formidable have they been, that the king hath been forced to turn tributary to them, paying them three elephants per annum. However the middle of this Island, viz. Candy Uda, standing upon mountains, and so strongly fortified by nature, could never be brought into subjection by them, much less by any other, but hath always been under the power of their own kings.

Their power and interest in this Island formerly.

There were great and long wars between the King of Ceylon and the Portugueze: and many of the brave Portugal generals are still in memory among them: of whom I shall relate some passages presently. Great vexation they gave the king by their irruptions into his dominions, and the mischiefs they did him, though oftentimes with great loss on their side. Great battles have been lost and won between them, with great destruction of men on both parts. But being greatly distressed

The great wars between the king and them, force him to send in for the Hollanders.

at last, he sent and called in the Hollander to his aid. By whose seasonable assistance, together with his own arms, the king totally dispossessed the Portugueze, and routed them out of the land: whose rooms the Dutch now occupy, paying themselves for their pains.

The king invites the Portugueze to live in his country.

At the surrender of Columbo, which was the last place the Portugueze held, the king made proclamation, that all Portugueze, which would come unto him, should be well entertained: which accordingly many did, with their whole families, wives, children, and servants, choosing rather to be under him than the Duch, and divers of them are alive to this day, living in Candy Uda; and others are born there. To all whom he alloweth monthly maintenance; yea also, and provisions for their slaves and servants, which they brought up with them. This people are privileged to travel the countries above all other whites, as knowing they will not run away. Also when there was a trade at the sea ports, they are permitted to go down with commodities, clear from all customs and duties. Besides these who came voluntarily to live under the king, there are others whom he took prisoners. The Portugueze of the best quality the king took into his service, who are most of them since cut off, according to his kind custom towards his courtiers. The rest of them have allowance from that king, and follow husbandry, trading about the country, stilling rack, keeping taverns; the women sew womens waistcoats, and men sew mens doublets for sale.

Their privileges,

Their generals.

I shall now mention some of the last Portugueze generals, all within this present king's reign, with some passages concerning them.

Constantine Sa, general of the Portugal's army in Ceylon, when the Portugueze had footing in this land, was very successful against this present king. He run quite through the Island unto the royal city itself, which he set on fire with the temples therein; insomuch that the king sent a message to him, signifying that he was willing to become his tributary. But he proudly sent him word back again, that that would not serve his turn, "He should not only be tributary, but slave to his master, the King of Portugal." This the King of Candy could not brook, being of an high stomach, and said, "He would fight to the last drop of blood rather than stoop to that." There were at this time many commanders in the general's army who were natural Chingulays; with these the king dealt secretly, assuring them, that if they would turn on his side, he would gratify them with very ample rewards. The king's promises took effect, and they all revolted from the general. The king now daring not to trust the revolted, to make trial of their truth and fidelity, put them in the forefront of his battle, and commanded them to give the first onset. The king at that time might have twenty or thirty thousand men in the field; who, taking their opportunity, set upon the Portugueze army, and gave them such a total overthrow, that as they report in that country, not one of them escaped. The general seeing that defeat, and himself like to be taken, called his black boy to give him water to drink, and snatching the knife that stuck by his boy's side, stabbed himself with it.

Constantine Sa.

He loses a victory and stabs himself.

Another general after him was Lewis Tissera; he swore he would make the king eat coracan tallipa, that is a kind of hasty pudding, made of water and the coracan flower, which is reckoned the worst fare of that Island. The king afterwards

Lewis Tissera served as he intended to serve the king.

took this Lewis Tissera, and put him in chains in the common goal, and made him eat of the same fare; and there is a ballad of this man and this passage, sung much among the common people there to this day.

Simon Caree of a cruel mind.

Their next general was Simon Caree, a natural Chingulay, but baptized. He is said to be a great commander. When he had got any victory over the Chingulays, he did exercise great cruelty. He would make the women beat their own children in their mortars, wherein they used to beat their corn.

Gasper Figari splits men in the middle.

Gasper Figari had a Portugueze father and Chingulays mother. He was the last general they had in this country, and a brave soldier, but degenerated not from his predecessors in cruelty. He would hang up the people by the heels, and split them down the middle. He had his axe wrapped up in a white cloth, which he carried with him into the field to execute those he suspected to be false to him, or that ran away. Smaller malefactors he was merciful to, cutting off only their right hands; several, whom he hath so served, are yet living, whom I have seen.

His policy.

This Gasper came up one day to fight against the king, and the king resolved to fight him. The general fixed his camp at Motaupul in Hotteracourly, and in order to the king's coming down to meet the Portugueze, preparation was made for him at a place called Cota Coppul, which might be ten or twelve miles distant from the Portugueze army. Gasper knew of the place by some spies; but of the time of the king's coming he was informed that it was a day sooner than it really happened. According to this information he resolved privately to march

thither, and come upon him in the night unawares. And because he knew the king was a politician, and would have his spies abroad to watch the general's motions, the general sent for all the drummers and pipers to play and dance in his camp, that thereby the king's spies might not suspect that he was upon the march, but merry and secure in his camp. In the mean time, having set all his people to their dancing and drumming, he left a small party there to secure the baggage, and away he goes in the night with his army, and arrives to Catta Coppul, intending to fall upon the king; but when he came thither, he found the king was not yet come; but into the king's tents he went, and sits him down in the seat appointed for the king. Here he heard where the king was with his camp, which being not far off, he marched thither in the morning and fell upon him, and gave him one of the greatest routs that ever he had. The king himself made a narrow escape; for, had it not been for a Dutch company, which the Dutch had sent a little before for his guard, who after his own army fled, turned head and stopped the Portugueze for a while, he had been seized. The Portugueze general was so near the king, that he called after him, Houre; that is brother, stay, I would speak with you; but the king being got a top of the hills, was safe; and so Gaspar retired to his quarters.

Gives the king a great overthrow.

This gallant expert commander, that had so often vanquished the Chingulays, could not cope with another European nation; for when the Hollanders came to besiege Columbo, he was sent for against them with his army. They told him before he went, that now he must look to himself, for he was not now to fight against Chingulays, but against soldiers that would look him in the face: but he made nothing of them, and said he would

Loses Columbo, and taken prisoner.

serve them as he had served the Chingulays. The Hollanders met him, and they fought, but had before contrived a stratagem, which he was not aware of: they had placed some field-pieces in the rear of their army, and after a small skirmish they retreated as if they had been worsted, which was only to draw the Portugueze nearer upon their guns; which, when they had brought them in shot of, they opened on a sudden to the right and left, and fired upon them, and so routed them, and drove them into Columbo. This Gaspar was in the city when it was taken, and himself taken prisoner; who was afterwards sent to Goa, where he died: and so much of the Portugueze.

The Dutch, the occasion of their coming in.

The Dutch succeeded the Portugueze; the first occasion of whose coming into this land was, that the present king being wearied and overmatched with the Portugueze, sent for them into his aid long ago from Batavia; and they did him good service, but they feathered their own nests by the means, and are now possessed of all the sea coasts, and considerable territories thereunto adjoining.

The king, their implacable enemy, and why.

The king of the country keeps up an irreconcileable war against them; the occasion of which is said to be this: upon the besieging of Columbo, which was about the year 1655, it was concluded upon between the king and the Dutch, that their enemies, the Portugueze, being expelled thence, the city was to be delivered up by the Dutch into the king's hands; whereupon the king himself in person with all his power went down to this war, to assist and join with the Hollanders, without whose help, as is generally reported, the Dutch could not have taken the city; but being surrendered to them, and they gotten into it, the king lay looking when they would come, according to their

former articles, and put him into possession of it; meanwhile they turned on a sudden and fell upon him, contrary to his expectation, (whether the king had first broke word with them) and took bag and baggage from him; which provoked him in so high a manner, that he maintains a constant hostility against them, detains their ambassadors, and forbids his people, upon pain of death, to hold commerce with them.

So that the Dutch have enough to do to maintain those places which they have. Oftentimes the king, at unawares, falls upon them and does them great spoil, sometimes giving no quarter, but cutting off the heads of whomsoever he catches, which are brought up and hung upon trees near the city; many of which I have seen. Sometimes he brings up his prisoners alive, and keeps them by the highway sides, a spectacle to the people in memory of his victories over them: many of these are now living there in a most miserable condition, having but a very small allowance from him, so that they are forced to be, and it is a favour when they can get leave to go abroad and do it. The damage the king does them.

The Dutch, therefore, not being able to deal with him by the sword, being unacquainted with the woods, and Chingulays manner of fighting, do endeavour for peace with them all they can, dispatching divers ambassadors to him, and sending great presents, by carrying letters to him in great state, wrapped up in silks wrought with gold and silver, bearing them all the way upon their heads in token of great honour, honouring him with great and high titles, subscribing themselves his subjects and servants, telling him, the forts they build are out of loyalty to him, to secure his majesty's country from foreign enemies; and, that when they come up into his country, it is to seek The means they use to obtain peace with him.

maintenance. And by these flatteries and submissions they sometimes obtain to keep what they have gotten from him; and sometimes nothing will prevail, he neither regarding their ambassadors nor receiving their presents, but taking his opportunities, on a sudden, of setting on them by his forces.

How he took Bibligom Fort.

His craft and success in taking Bibligom Fort, in the county of Habberagon, may deserve to be mentioned. The Chingulays had besieged the fort, and knowing the Dutch had no water there, but all they had was conveyed through a trench, wrought under ground, from a river near by, they besieged them so close, and planted so many guns towards the mouth of this trench, that they could not come out to fetch water. They cut down wood also, and made bundles of faggots therewith, which they piled up round about their fort at some distance, and every night removed them nearer and nearer, so that their works became higher than the fort. Their main intent by these faggot-works, was to have brought them just under the fort, and then to have set it on fire, the walls of the fort being for the most part of wood. There was also a Bo-gahah tree, growing just by the fort, on which they planted guns, and shot right down into them. The houses in the fort being thatched, they shot also fire-arrows among them, so that the beseiged were forced to pull off the straw from their houses, which proved a great inconvenience to them being a rainy season, so that they lay open to the weather and cold. The Dutch finding themselves in this extremity desired quarter, which was granted them at the king's mercy. They came out and laid down their arms, all but the officers, who still wore theirs. None were plundered of any thing they had about them. The fort they demolished to the ground, and brought up the four guns to the king's palace, where they,

among others, stand mounted in very brave carriages before his gate.

The Dutch were brought two or three days journey from the fort, into the country they call Owvah, and there were placed with a guard about them, having but a small allowance appointed them; insomuch, that afterwards having spent what they had, they perished for hunger; so that of about ninety Hollanders taken prisoners, there were not above five and twenty living when I came away.

Several ambassadors detained by the king.

There are several white ambassadors, besides other Chingulay people, by whom the Dutch have sent letters and presents to the king, whom he keeps from returning back again. They are all bestowed in several houses, with soldiers to guard them; and though they are not in chains, yet none is permitted to come to them or speak with them, it not being the custom of that land for any to come to the speech of ambassadors. Their allowance is brought them ready dressed, out of the king's palace, being all sorts of varieties that the land affords. After they have remained in this condition some years, the guards are somewhat slackened, and the soldiers that are to watch them grow remiss in their duty, so that now the ambassadors walk about the streets, and any body goes to their houses and talks with them; that is, after they have been so long in the country, that all their news is stale and grown out of date. But this liberty is only winked at, not allowed. When they have been there a great while, the king usually gives them slaves, both men and women, the more to alienate their minds from their own country, and that they may stay with him with the more willingness and content. For his design is, to make them, if he can

inclineable to serve him; as he prevailed with one of these ambassadors to do for the love of a woman. The manner of it I shall relate immediately.

There are five ambassadors whom he hath thus detained since my coming there; of each of whom I shall speak a little, besides two whom he sent away voluntarily.

The first ambassador there detained since the author's remembrance.

The first of these was sent up by the Hollanders some time before the rebellion against the king; who had detained him in the city. After the rebellion the king sent for him, to him, to the mountain of Gauluda, whither he had retreated from the rebels. The king not long after removed to Digligy, where he now keeps his court; but left the ambassador at Gauluda, remaining by himself with a guard of soldiers. In this uncomfortable condition, upon a dismal mountain, void of all society, he continued many days. During which time a Chingulay and his wife falls out, and she being discontented with her husband, to escape from him, flies to this ambassador's house for shelter. The woman being somewhat beautiful, he fell greatly in love with her; and, to obtain her, he sent to the king and proferred him his service if he would permit him to enjoy her company; which the king was very willing and glad to do, having now obtained that which he had long aimed at;—to get him into his service.

His preferment and death.

Hereupon the king sent him word that he granted his desire, and withal sent to both of them rich apparel, and to her many jewels and bracelets of gold and silver. Suddenly after there was a great house prepared for them in the city, furnished with all kinds of furniture out of the king's treasure and

at his proper costs and charges: which being finished, he was brought away from his mountain into it; but from thenceforward never saw his wife more, according to the custom of court. And he was entertained in the king's service, and made courtalbad; which is chief over all the smiths and carpenters in Candy Uda. Some short time after, the king was about to send his forces against a fort of the Hollanders, called Arundery, built by them in the year 1666. He, though in the king's service, yet being a well-wisher to his country, had privately sent a letter of advice to the Dutch concerning the king's intention and purpose:—an answer to which was intercepted, and brought to the king; wherein thanks was returned him from the Dutch for his loyalty to his own nation, and that they would accordingly prepare for the king's assault. The king having this letter, sent for him and bade him read it; which he excused, pretending it was so written that he could not:—whereupon, immediately another Dutchman was sent for, who read it before the king, and told him the contents of it. At which it is reported the king should say—" Beia pas mettandi hitta pas ettandi." That is, He serves me for fear, and them for love; or, his fear is here, and his love is there; and forthwith commanded to carry him forth to execution: which was accordingly done upon him. 'Tis generally said, that this letter was framed by somebody on purpose to ruin him.

The next ambassador after him was Hendrick Draak; a fine gentleman, and good friend of the English. This was he who was commissioned in the year 1664 of intercede with the king on the behalf of the English, that they might have liberty to go home; and with him they were made to

The next ambassador dying there, his body is sent down to Columbo in great state.

believe they should return: which happened at the same time that Sir Edward Winter sent his letters to the king for us; which I have already spoke of in the fifth chapter of this part. This ambassador was much in the king's favour, with whom he was detained till he died. And then the king sent his body down to Columbo, carried in a pallenkine, with great state and lamentation; and accompanied with his great commanders and many soldiers.

The third ambassador gets away by his resolution.

Some time after the loss of the fort of Arrundery, which was about the year 1670, the Dutch sent up another ambassador to see if he could obtain a peace, which was the first time their ambassadors began to bring up letters upon their heads in token of extraordinary reverence. This man was much favoured by the king, and was entertained with great ceremony and honour, clothing him in Chingulay habit; which I never knew done before or since. But being weary of his long stay, and of the delays that were made, having often made motions to go down, and still he was deferred from day to day; at length he made a resolution, that if he had not leave to go by such a day, he would go without it, saying—" That the former ambassador who died there, died like a woman; but it should be seen that he would die like a man." At the appointed day he girt on his sword, and repaired to the gates of the king's palace, pulling off his hat, and making his obeisance as if the king were present before him; and thanking him for the favours and honours he had done him, and so took his leave. And there being some Englishmen present, he generously gave them some money to drink his health; and, in this resolute manner departed, with some two or three black servants that attended on him. The upshot of this was, that the king not being wil-

ling to prevent his resolution by violence, sent one of his noblemen to conduct him down; and so he had the good fortune to get home safely to Columbo.

The next ambassador after him was John Baptista;—a man of a milder spirit than the former, endeavouring to please and shew compliance with the king. He obtained many favours of the king, and several slaves, both men and women; and, living well, with servants about him, is the more patient in waiting the king's leisure till he pleaseth to send him home.

The fourth was of a milder nature.

The last ambassador that came up while I was there, brought up a lion; which the Dutch thought would be the most acceptable present they could send to the king, as indeed did all others;—it was but a whelp. But the king did never receive it, supposing it not so famous, as he had heard by report lions were. This man with his lion was brought up and kept in the county of Oudapollat, near twenty miles from the king's court; where he remained about a year, in which time the lion died. The ambassador being weary of living thus like a prisoner, with a guard always upon him, often attempted to go back, seeing the king would not permit him audience; but the guards would not let him. Having divers times made disturbances in this manner to get away home, the king commanded to bring him up into the city, to an house that was prepared for him, standing some distance from the court: where, having waited many days, and seeing no sign of audience, he resolved to make his appearance before the king by force; which he attempted to do, when the king was abroad taking his pleasure. The soldiers of his guard immediately

The fifth brings a lion to the king, as a present.

ran, and acquainted the noblemen at court of his coming; who delayed not to acquaint the king thereof: whereupon the king gave order forthwith to meet him; and, where they met him, in that same place to stop him till further order; and there they kept him, not letting him go either forward or backward. In this manner and place he remained for three days, when the king sent order that he might return to his house whence he came. This the king did to tame him; but afterwards he was pleased to call him before him; and there he remained when I left the country, maintained with plenty of provisions at the king's charge.

The number of Dutch there.

The number of Dutch now living there may be about fifty or sixty; some whereof are ambassadors, some prisoners of war; some runaways, and malefactors that have escaped the hand of justice, and got away from the Dutch quarters: to all whom are allotted respective allowances; but the runaways have the least, the king not loving such, though giving them entertainment.

They follow their vice of drinking.

The Dutch here love drink, and practise their proper vice in this country. One, who was a great man in the court, would sometimes come into the king's presence half disguised with drink, which the king often past over; but once asked him—"Why do you thus disorder yourself; that when I send for you about my business, you are not in a capacity to serve me?" He boldly replied, "That as soon as his mother took away her milk from him, she supplied it with wine; and, ever since," saith he, "I have used myself to it." With this answer the king seemed pleased; and, indeed, the rest of the white men are generally of the same temper; insomuch, that

the Chingulays have a saying,—" That wine is as natural to white men, as milk to children."

All differences of ranks and qualities are disregarded among those Chingulay people that are under the Dutch; neither do the Dutch make any distinction between the hondrews, and the low inferior casts of men: and permit them to go in the same habit, and sit upon stools, as well as the best hondrews; and the lower ranks may eat, and intermarry with the higher, without any punishment, or any cognizance taken of it: which is a matter that the Chingulays in Candy Uda are much offended with the Dutch for; and makes them think, that they themselves are sprung from some mean rank and extract. And this prejudiceth this people against them, that they have not such an esteem for them:—for, to a Chingulay, his rank and honour is as dear as his life. And thus much of the Dutch.

The Chingulays prejudiced against the Dutch, and why.

CHAP. XIV.

Concerning the French: with some Enquiries what should make the King detain White Men as he does: and how the Christian Religion is maintained among the Christians there.

The French come hither with a fleet.

ABOUT the year 1672, or 73, there came fourteen sail of great ships from the King of France to settle a trade here. Monsieur De la Hay, admiral, put in with his fleet into the port of Cottiar: from whence he sent up three men by way of embassy to the King of Candy; whom he entertained very nobly, and gave every one of them a chain of gold about their necks, and a sword all inlaid with silver, and a gun; and afterwards sent one of them down to the admiral with his answer; which encouraged him to send up others: that is, an ambassador and six more, who were to reside there till the return of the fleet back again, being about to sail to the coast.

To whom the king sends provisions, and helps them to build a fort.

To the fleet the king sent all manner of provision, as much as his ability could afford: and, not only permitted, but assisted them to build a fort in the bay; which they manned partly with their own people, and partly with Chingulays, whom the king sent and lent the French. But, the admiral finding that the king's provisions, and what else could be bought in the Island would not suffice for so great a fleet, was forced to depart for the coast of Coromandel; promising the king, by the ambassador afore-mentioned, speedily to return again: so, leaving some of his men with the king's supplies to keep the fort till his

return, he weighed anchor and set sail; but never came back again. Some reported they were destroyed by a storm—others by the Dutch. The admiral had sent up to the king great presents, but he would not presently receive them, that it might not seem as if he wanted any thing, or were greedy of things brought him: but, since the French returned not according to their promise, he scorned ever after to receive them. At first he neglected the presents out of state, and ever since out of anger and indignation. This French fort at Cottiar was a little after easily taken by the Dutch.

The French ambassador offends the king.

But to return to the ambassador and his retinue; he rode up from Cottiar on horseback, which was very grand in that country: and, being with his company gotten somewhat short of the city, was appointed there to stay until a house should be prepared in the city for their entertainment. When it was signified to him that their house was ready for their reception, they were conducted forward by certain noblemen sent by the king, carrying with them a present for his majesty. The ambassador came riding on horseback into the city; which the noblemen observing, dissuaded him from, and advised him to walk on foot; telling him—it was not allowable, nor the custom; but he regarding them not, rode by the palace gate. It offended the king, but he took not much notice of it for the present.

He refuses to wait longer for audience.

The ambassador alighted at his lodgings, where he and his companions were nobly entertained, provisions sent them ready dressed out of the king's palace three times a day—great plenty they had of all things the country afforded. After some time the king sent to him to come to his audience. In great state he was conducted to the court, accompanied with several of the

nobles that were sent to him. Coming thus to the court in the night, as it is the king's usual manner at that season to send for foreign ministers, and give them audience, he waited the r some small time—about two hours or less, the king not yet admitting him; which he took in such great disdain, and for such an affront, that he was made to stay at all, much more so long—that he would tarry no longer, but went towards his lodging. Some about the court observing this, would have stopped him by elephants that stood in the court, turning them before the gate through which he was to pass: but he would not so be stopped, but laid his hand upon his sword, as if he meant to make his way by the elephants; the people seeing his resolution, called away the elephants, and let him pass.

Which more displeased the king. Clapped in chains.

As soon as the king heard of it, he was highly displeased; insomuch, that he commanded some of his officers, that they should go and beat them, and clap them in chains: which was immediately done to all excepting the two gentlemen that were first sent up by the admiral; for these were not touched, the king reckoning they did not belong to this ambassador; neither were they now in his company, excepting that one of them in the combustion got a few blows: they were likewise disarmed, and so have continued ever since. Upon this, the gentlemen attendants upon the ambassador, made their complaints to the captain of their guards, excusing themselves, and laying all the blame upon their ambassador; urging, "That they were his attendants, and a soldier must obey his commander, and go where he appoints him." Which sayings being told the king, he approved thereof, and commanded them out of chains—the ambassador still remaining in them, and so continued for six months: after which he was released of his chains by means of

the intreaties his own men made to the great men in his behalf.

The rest of the French refuse to dwell with the ambassador.

The rest of the Frenchmen, seeing how the ambassador's imprudent carriage had brought them to this misery, refused any longer to dwell with him. And each of them by the king's permission dwells by himself in the city, being maintained at the king's charge. Three of these, whose names were Monsieur Du Plessy, son to a gentleman of note in France, and Jean Bloom, the third whose name I cannot tell, but was the ambassador's boy, the king appointed to look to his best horse, kept in the palace. This horse some time after died, as it is supposed of old age; which extremely troubled the king, and, imagining they had been instrumental to his death by their carelessness, he commanded them, Monsieur Du Plessy and Jean Bloom to be carried away into the mountains, and kept prisoners in chains, where they remained when I came thence.

The rest of them follow employments; some whereof still rack, and keep the greatest taverns in the city.

The king uses means to reconcile the French to their ambassador.

Lately, a little before I came from the Island, the king understanding the disagreements and differences that were still kept on foot betwixt the ambassador and the rest of his company, disliked it, and used these means to make them friends. He sent for them all, the ambassador and the rest, and told them, that it was not seemly for persons as they were, at such a distance from their own country, to quarrel and fall out, and that if they had any love for God, or the King of France, or himself, that they should go home with the ambassador, and

agree and live together. They went back together, not daring to disobey the king: and, as soon as they were at home, the king sent a banquet after them of sweetmeats and fruits to eat together. They did eat the king's banquet, but it would not make the reconcilement; for, after they had done, each man went home and dwelt in their own houses as they did before. It was thought that this carriage would offend the king, and that he would at least take away their allowance: and it is probable before this time the king hath taken vengeance on them. But the ambassador's carriage is so imperious, that they would rather venture whatsoever might follow, than be subject to him: and in this case I left them.

The author acquaints the French ambassador in London with the condition of these men.

Since my return to England, I presumed by a letter to inform the French ambassador then in London of the abovesaid matters, thinking myself bound in conscience and Christian charity to do my endeavour, that their friends knowing their condition, may use means for their deliverance. The letter ran thus:

"THESE may acquaint your excellency that, having been a prisoner in the Island of Ceylon, under the king of that country near twenty years; by means of this, my long detainment there, I became acquainted with the French ambassador, and the other gentlemen, his retinue, being in all eight persons; who was sent to treat with the said king in the year 1672, by Monsieur De la Hay; who came with a fleet to the port of Cottiar; or, Trinkemalay, from whence he sent these gentlemen. And, knowing that from thence

it is scarce possible to send any letters or notice to other parts; for, in all the time of my captivity I could never send one word, whereby my friends here might come to hear of my condition; until, with one more I made an escape, leaving sixteen Englishmen yet there. The kindness I have received from those French gentlemen, as also my compassion for them, being detained in the same place with me, hath obliged and constrained me, to presume to trouble your lordship with this paper; not knowing any other means whereby I might convey notice to their friends and relations, which is all the service I am able to perform for them. The ambassador's name I know not; there is a kinsman of his called Monsieur le Serle, and a young gentleman called Monsieur du Plessy; and another, named Monsieur la Roche; the rest by name I know not. And then an account of them is given, according to what I have mentioned above. I shall not presume to be farther tedious to your honour; craving pardon for my boldness, which my affection to those gentlemen, being detained in the same land with me, hath occasioned; concerning whom, if your lordship be pleased farther to be informed, I shall be both willing and ready to be,

"Yours," &c.

The ambassador, upon the receipt of this, desired to speak with me. Upon whom I waited; and he, after some speech with me, told me he would send word into France of it, and gave me thanks for this my kindness to his countrymen.

It may be worth some inquiry what the reason might be,

An inquiry into the reason of this king's detaining Europeans.

that the king detains the European people as he does; it cannot be out of hope of profit or advantage; for they are so far from bringing him any, that they are a very great charge—being all maintained either by him or his people. Neither is it in the power of money to redeem any one, for that he neither needs nor values; which makes me conclude, that it is not out of profit, nor envy, or ill-will; but out of love and favour that he keeps them, delighting in their company, and to have them ready at his command. For, he is very ambitious of the service of these men, and winks at many of their failings, more than he uses to do towards his natural subjects: as may appear from a company of white soldiers he hath, who upon their watch used to be very negligent; one lying drunk here, and another there. Which remissness in his own soldiers he would scarce have endured, but it would have cost them their lives. But with these he uses more craft than severity to make them more watchful.

The king's gentleness towards his white soldiers.

They watch at his magazine.

These soldiers are under two captains, the one a Dutchman, and the other a Portugueze: they are appointed to guard one of the king's magazines, where they always keep sentinel both by day and night. This is a pretty good distance from the court, and here it was the king contrived their station, that they might swear and swagger out of his hearing, and that no body might disturb them, nor they no body. The Dutch captain lies at one side of the gate, and the Portugueze at the other.

How craftily the king corrected their negligence.

Once the king to employ these his white soldiers, and to honour them by letting them see what an assurance he reposed in them, sent one of his boys thither to be kept prisoner, which

they were very proud of. They kept him two years, in which time he had learnt both the Dutch and Portugueze language. Afterwards the king retook the boy into his service, and within a short time after executed him. But the king's reason in sending this boy to be kept by these soldiers was, probably not as they supposed, and as the king himself outwardly pretended; viz.—to shew how much he confided in them, but out of design to make them look the better to their watch, which their debauchery made them very remiss in. For the prisoners hands only were in chains, and not his legs; so that his possibility of running away, having his legs at liberty, concerned them to be circumspect and wakeful: and they knew if he had escaped, it were as much as their lives were worth. By this crafty and kind way did the king correct the negligence of his white soldiers.

Indeed his inclinations are much towards the Europeans, making them his great officers, accounting them more faithful and trusty than his own people; with these he often discourses concerning the affairs of their countries, and promotes them to places far above their ability, and sometimes their degree or desert; and indeed all over the land they do bear as it were a natural respect and reverence to white men, inasmuch as black they hold to be inferior to white: and they say the gods are white, and that the souls of the blessed after the resurrection shall be white; and therefore that black is a rejected and accursed colour.

The king's inclinations are towards white men.

The colour of white honoured in this land.

And as further signs of the king's favour to them, there are many privileges, which white men have and enjoy, as tolerated

Their privilege above the natives.

or allowed them from the king, which I suppose may proceed from the aforesaid consideration; as to wear any manner of apparel, either gold, silver, or silk, shoes and stockings, a shoulder belt and sword; their houses may be whitened with lime, and many such like things—all which the Chingulays are not permitted to do.

The king loves to send and talk with them.

He will sometimes send for them into his presence, and discourse familiarly with them, and entertain them with great civility, especially white ambassadors. They are greatly chargeable unto his country, but he regards it not in the least, so that the people are more like slaves unto us than we unto the king; insomuch that they are inforced by his command to bring us maintenance; whose poverty is so great oftentimes, that for want of what they supply us with, themselves, their wives, and children, are forced to suffer hunger, this being as a due tax imposed upon them to pay unto us. Neither can they by any power or authority refuse the payment hereof to us; for, in my own hearing, the people once complaining of their poverty and inability to give us any longer our allowance, the magistrate or governor replied, it was the king's special command, and who durst disannul it; and if otherwise they could not supply us with our maintenance, he bade them sell their wives and children rather than we should want of our due. Such is the favour that Almighty God hath given Christian people in the sight of this heathen king, whose entertainment and usage of them is thus favourable.

How they maintain Christianity among them.

If any enquire into the religious exercise and worship practised among the Christians here, I am sorry I must say it, I can

give but a slender account; for they have no churches and no priests, and so no meetings together on the Lord's days for divine worship, but each one reads and prays at his own house as he is disposed. They sanctify the day chiefly by refraining work and meeting together at drinking-houses. They continue the practice of baptism; and there being no priests, they baptize their children themselves with water, and use the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and give them Christian names. They have their friends about them at such a time, and make a small feast, according to their ability, and some teach their children to say their prayers, and to read, and some do not.

In some things they comply wit the worshi of the heath en.

Indeed their religion at the best is but negative, that is, they are not heathen, they do not comply with the idolatry here practised, and they profess themselves Christians in a general manner, which appear by their names, and by their beads and crosses that some of them wear about their necks: nor indeed can I wholly clear them from compliance with the religion of the country. For some of them when they are sick do use the ceremonies hich the heathen do in the like case, as in making idols of c ay, and setting them up in their houses, and offering rice to them, and having weavers to dance before them. But they are ashamed to be known to do this; and I have known none to do it, but such as are Indians born. Yet I never knew any of them, that do inwardly in heart and conscience incline to the ways of the heathen, but perfectly abhor them; nor have there been any, I ever heard of, that came to their temples upon any religious account, but only

An old priest used to eat of their sacrifices.

would stand by and look on; without it were one old priest named Padre Vergonse, a Genoeze born, and of the Jesuits order, who would go to the temples, and eat with the weavers and other ordinary people of the sacrifices offered to the idols: but with this apology for himself, that he eat it as common meat, and as God's creature, and that it was never the worse for their superstition that had past upon it. But however this may reflect upon the father, another thing may be related for his honour. There happened two priests to fall into the hands of the king; on whom he conferred great honours; for, having laid aside their habits, they kept about his person, and were the greatest favourites at court. The king one day sent for Vergonse, and asked him, "If it would not be better for him to lay aside his old coat and cap, and to do as the other two priests had done, and receive honour from him." He replied to the king, "that he boasted more in that old habit and the name of Jesus, than in all the honour that he could do him." And so refused the king's honour. The king valued the father for this saying. He had a pretty library about him, and died in his bed of old age: whereas the two other priests in the king's service died miserably, one of a canker, and the other was slain. The old priest had about thirty or forty books, which the king, they say, seized on after his death, and keeps.

The king permitted the Portugueze to build a church.

These priests, and more lived there, but all deceased, excepting Vergonse, before my time. The king allowed them to build a church; which they did, and the Portugueze assembled there, but they made no better than a bawdy-house of it; for which cause the king commanded to pull it down.

Although here be protestants and papists, yet here are no differences kept up among them; but they are as good friends, as if there were no such parties. And there is no other distinction of religion there, but only heathens and Christians; and we usually say, we Christians.

THE END.

THEIR MANNER OF EATING & DRINKING